



<http://www.bushfarms.com/beesnucs.htm>

**Nucs can be many sizes**

Various sizes for various uses

Again according to <http://www.bushfarms.com/beesnucs.htm>

**Splits** You can put a frame of brood with eggs a frame of emerging brood a couple of frames of honey and pollen and put them in a nuc and shake another couple of frame of bees from some brood in and the bees will raise a queen and you will have a new hive. When they fill the nuc, move them to a standard box.

**Shaken swarms.** You can put a screen bottom on the nuc and shake bees from brood frames from several hives (being careful NOT to get a queen) and you have a bunch of homeless queenless bees. These can be put in hive with some brood so they can raise one or added to a nuc with a caged queen.

**Small hive box** Proper box size is important for the health of bees. Small colonies can protect and keep a small box dry easier than a large box.

# A standard 5 frame nuc does not fit well on a 10 frame hive

Cloake boards, Double screen boards, queen excluders and other hardware are built to fit 10 frame boxes.

However two boxes just over 8 inches wide fit snug on a standard 10 frame box.

<http://www.betterbee.com/nuc-boxes/dnb-double-nuc-box-complete.asp>



All this can be yours for \$81.55 + shipping and taxes

# I began to make nuc boxes

**A free cedar log taken from a slash pile and then milled**



**Planing the board and truing the edges**



# Wood (especially cedar) can expand and shrink

I like to make the boxes one eighth of an inch extra tall and the inner covers an eighth of an inch extra wide. The extra can be easily trimmed off after the wood has had time relax and completely dry. This also gives me an eighth of an inch of mercy so mistakes sometimes can be corrected a bit after assembly.

# So after making the nuc boxes I figured out that I needed lids, inner covers, and bottom boards

**What do you get when you add a Mann Lake hive stand to a screened inner cover**

**You get a screened bottom board with a varroa mite trap drawer**



# Stretching hardware cloth can be difficult, but here is my secret



Overlap the covers one half inch per ten feet, staple the ends, remove the half inch overlap, then press both ends down to stretch, and staple the wire to each inner cover frame.



## **Sometimes two smaller inner covers may be better than one larger cover**

If you only want to disturb half the hive rather than the whole colony, then consider the possibility of two smaller inner covers.

I usually don't cut the hole in the center of the inner covers, or the bee escape hole on the front until I am ready to use the inner cover. Inner covers without holes are very lightweight and can sometimes be used as top or bottom board substitutes.

I also make my own migratory and telescoping covers.



So here are the final results

