Using the Betterbee Queen Rearing Calendar

The queen rearing calendar allows the beekeeper to plan and schedule all the events that occur during each round of queen rearing. By rotating the wheel you can easily see the date of all subsequent events after grafting on a specified date. You can also work backwards and determine when grafting needs to occur to provide for mated queens on a specific date.

Here is an example:

- **The outer circle** of numbers is the date of the month that each process takes place.
- The numbers on the wheel represent the age of the queen in days counting from when the egg was laid.
- **Grafting is on day 4** on the inner circle, in this case on the 4th of the month.
- Queen cells are **transferred into hives or nucs on day 14** on the inner circle, in this case on the 14th of the month.
- **Queens should be mated and ready to cage starting at day 30** on the inner circle. At this time most queens should be mated and laying eggs. There is no problem waiting longer to cage queens. In the example queens would be ready approximately the first of the following month.
- Note that the **development** of the queen cells are also shown on the inner circle (Phase 2).
- The calendar shows (Phase 3) an **incubator phase**. During this period the queen cells really only need warmth and proper humidity and are being “incubated” in the finisher colony. If desired queen cells can be transferred to an incubator on day 11 to 13. Note that queen cells are very fragile and should be handled with great care if being transferred to an incubator. We don’t recommend transferring to an incubator before day 11.
Here is some further explanation of the information on the calendar:

- **Grafting Day**: Indicates the day on which grafting is performed.
- **Day of Month**:責任日, which is a crucial date in the calendar.
- **Day of Queen Development**: Shows the stage in the development of the queen.
- **Stage of Queen cell development**: Indicates the progress of queen cell development.
- **Eggs laid by breeder queen**: Marks the day when breeder queens lay eggs.
- **Starter and finisher colony**: Represents the colonies involved in the rearing process.
- **Breeder colony**: The colony from which breeder queens are obtained.
- **Queen cells in the mating colony**: Indicates the location where mated queens are kept.
- **Queen cells placed in nucs and hives**: Shows when queen cells are transferred to nucs and hives.
- **Queen cells may go into incubator if desired**: Indicates an optional step in the rearing process.
- **Queens may be checked, caged and used on or after this date**: Specifies when queens can be used.
• It is helpful to turn the calendar so that grafting day is at 12:00 and then the following dates show in clockwise fashion.

Let’s imagine we want to raise queens in May

• We have set the calendar for grafting on May 11th
• Cells are placed in hives or nucs on the 21st of May
• Queens should be mated and ready to check and cage on or after the 6th of June