NATURAL SWARM CALENDAR

Virgin Queen hatches from oldest Q cell

Last possible Cast Swarm

Last possible Worker born

Last possible Drone born

Prime Swarm leaves. This day is variable. It can be (but is rarely) earlier, or it may be delayed due to bad weather, for example.

Egg appears in Queen Cell.

Typical number of bees in hive 30 to 35,0000 and roughly constant. Births = Deaths

Note: Old Queen can still lay eggs up to the day of the Prime Swarm (in Q cups, worker or drone cells).

Prime Swarm leaves.
Note: Prime Swarm does not usually leave BEFORE oldest Q Cell is capped.
Typical Prime swarm about 15 to 25,000 bees.

Prime swarm may be delayed due to bad weather etc.

Cast swarms can leave any day from Day 16 up to Day 25 (9 + 16 = 25).

Last possible Cast Swarm.
(Egg laid at Day 9 and hatches in 16 days, i.e. at Day 25).

All the bees from the brood of the old Queen have now hatched. Consequently the Hive population now starts to fall until brood from New Queen starts to hatch at day 54, 33 + 21 = 54

Next say at Day 2

Oldest Queen Cell capped at Day 9 and initiates Prime Swarm

First Cast Swarm.
(If egg were to appear in Q cell at say Day 2 and it hatches in 16 days.
Cast 1 issues at Day 18)

~35,000

Virgin Queen hatches from oldest Q cell at Day 16.

~20,000

APPROX   HIVE   POPULATION

Old Queen is prepared by colony for Prime Swarm

Hive is queenless for this period

Cast Swarm period

Last possible Worker born (Egg laid at Day 9 and hatches in 21 days, i.e. at Day 30).

Last possible Drone born (Egg laid at Day 9 and hatches in 24 days, i.e. at Day 33).

16

DAYS FROM NEW QUEEN EGG LAID

0

9

16

~18

25

30

33

Typically new Queen starts to lay only when Old Queen's last drone brood has hatched at Day 33.

Bees lost in Prime Swarm are quickly made up, by up to 2,000 bees hatching per day. This creates a pressure for cast swarms.

Virgin Queen leaves for mating flight(s)

~21

Virgin Queen matures in hive before mating flight in about 3 to 5 days, at ~ Day 21

NOTES:
1. All numbers (below 60) are in days.
2. GREEN is associated with Old Queen.
3. BLUE is associated with Cast Swarms.
4. RED is associated with New Queen.