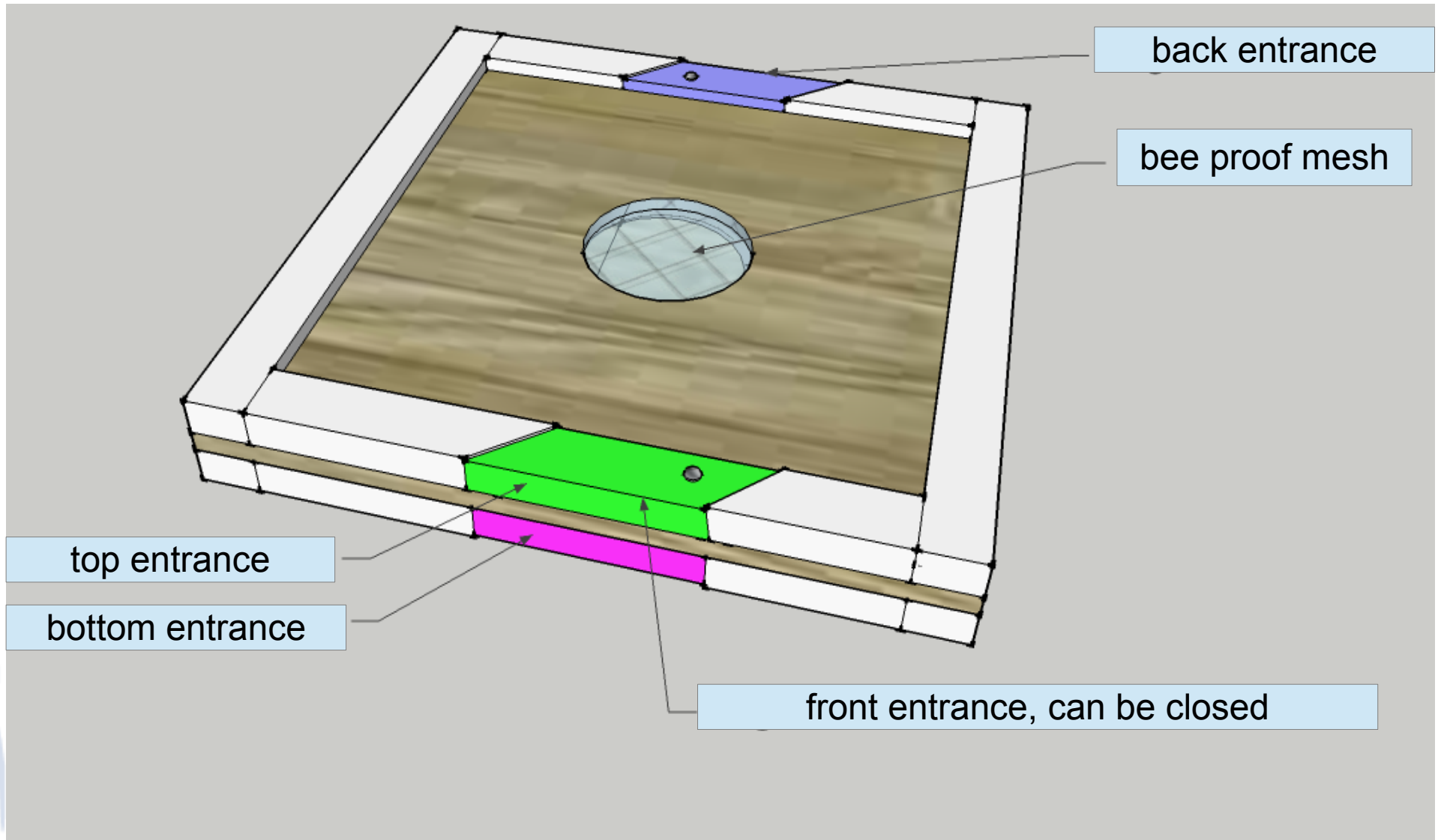


# Snelgrove-board

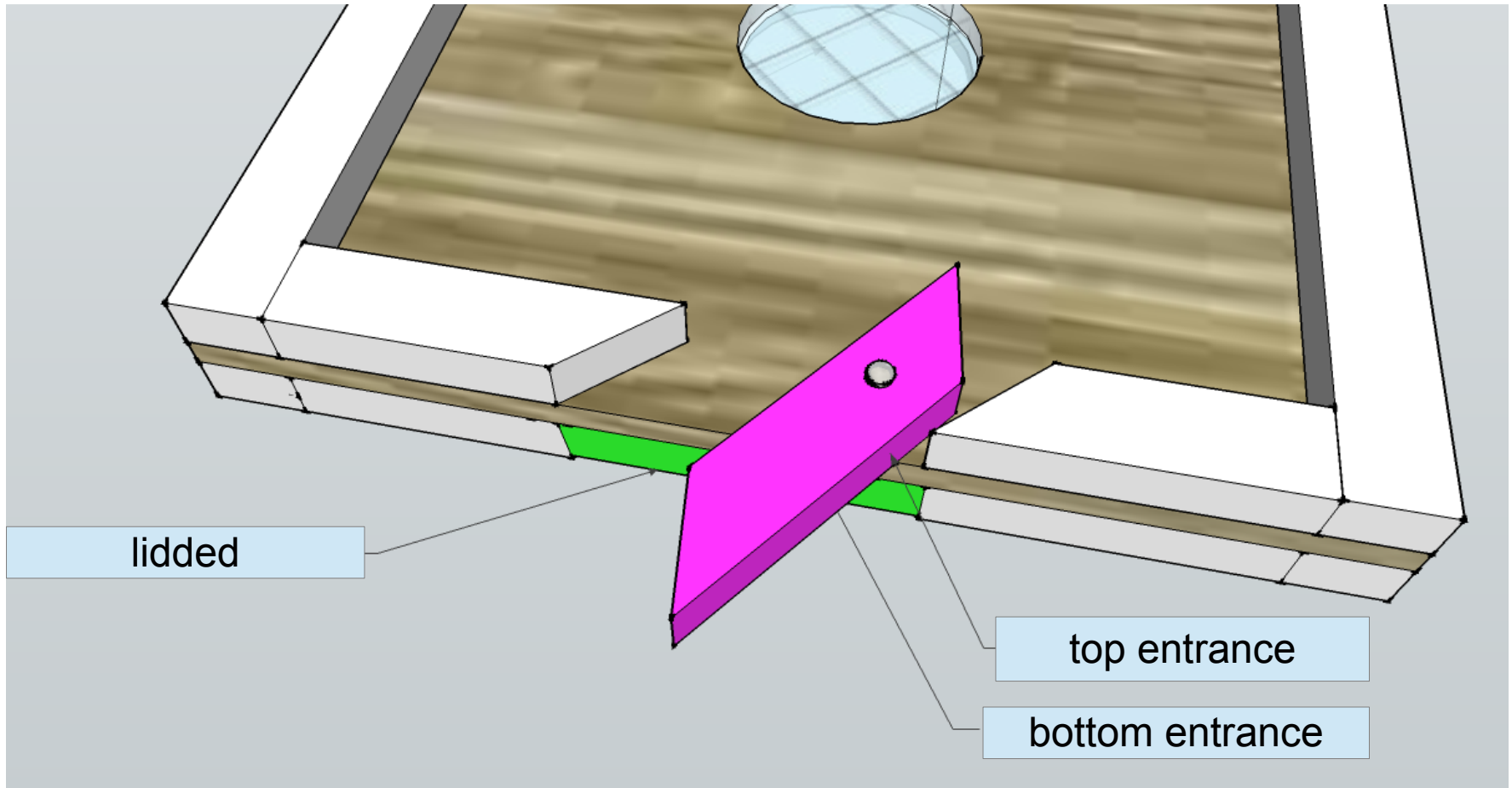
Swarm prevention and  
preservation of the colony size  
by usage  
of the  
Snelgrove-board

status: experimental

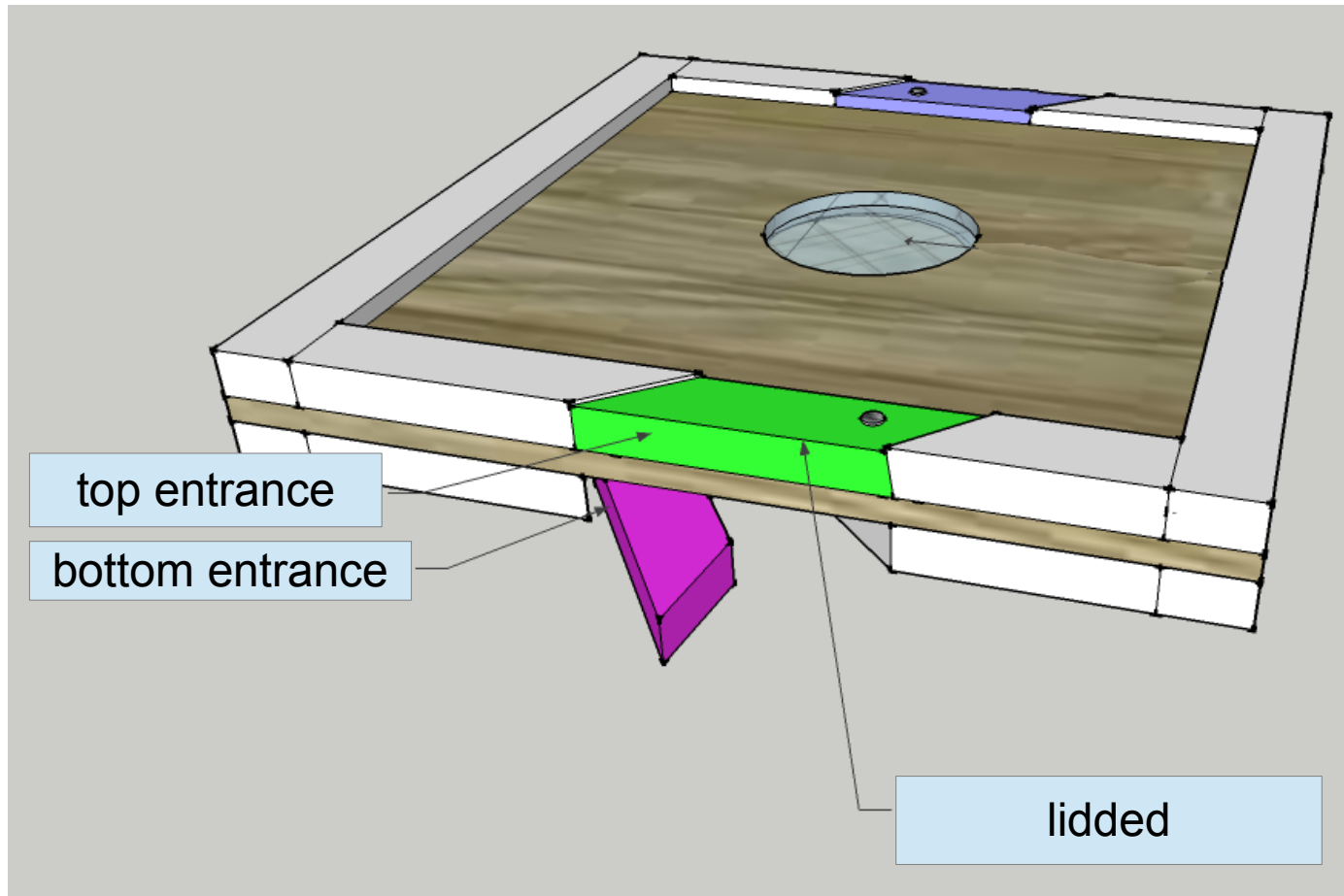
# Construction of the Snelgrove-board



# Detail of the lidded entrance



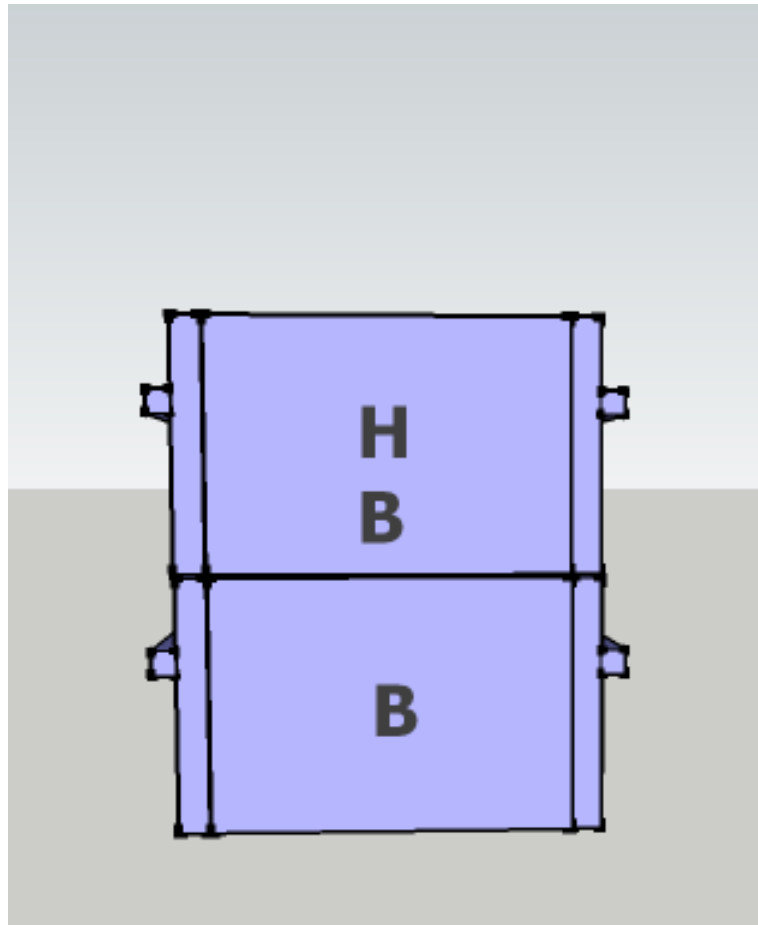
# overview



# short instructions

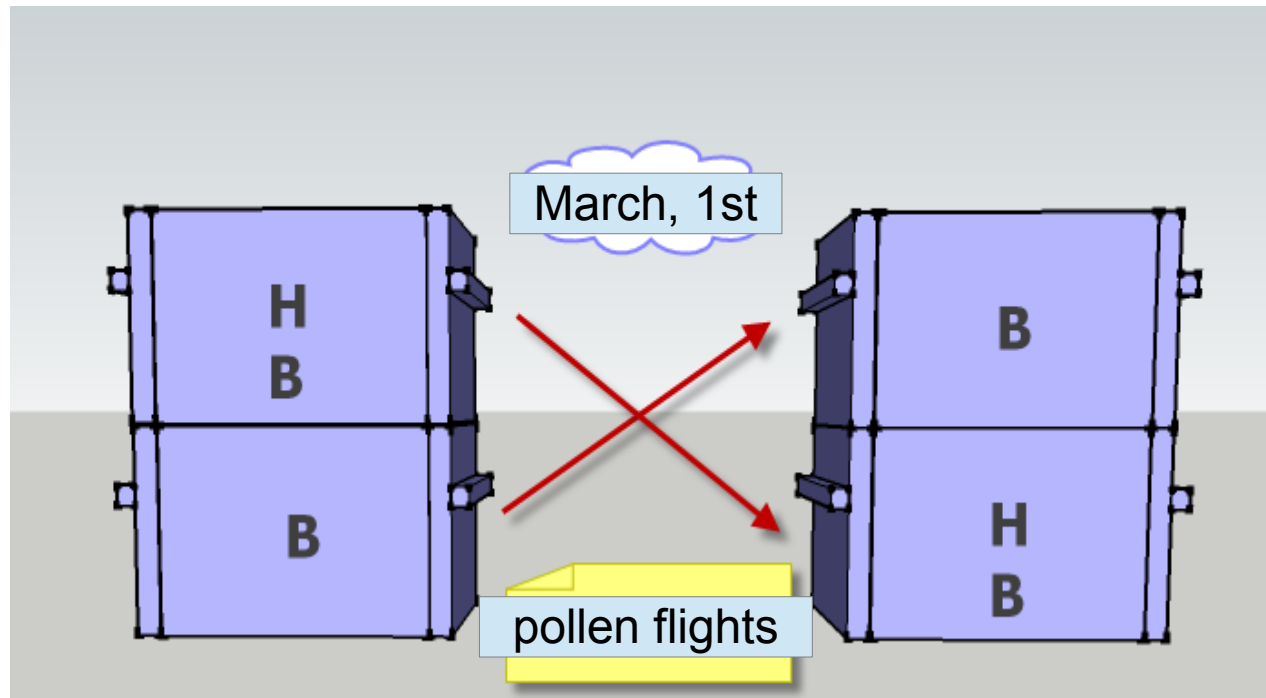
- Just before the main flows (beginning of May, June, July) the initial bottom brood box is supered on top of the Snelgrove board with brood and all, but without the queen. Brood hatches in top box above the board.
- Queen, a seed comb and empty topbars/frames go into an empty bottom box.
- After 20 Tagen the bottom brood box got comb and new brood and the swapping can be done for another time.
- There are small lidded entrances in the Snelgrove board at the front and the back, one at the top and another one at the bottom. One entrance leads into the supered box, the other into the honey chamber of the colony below. This way the hatched young bees can be redirected into the starter colony.

# Usage during the season



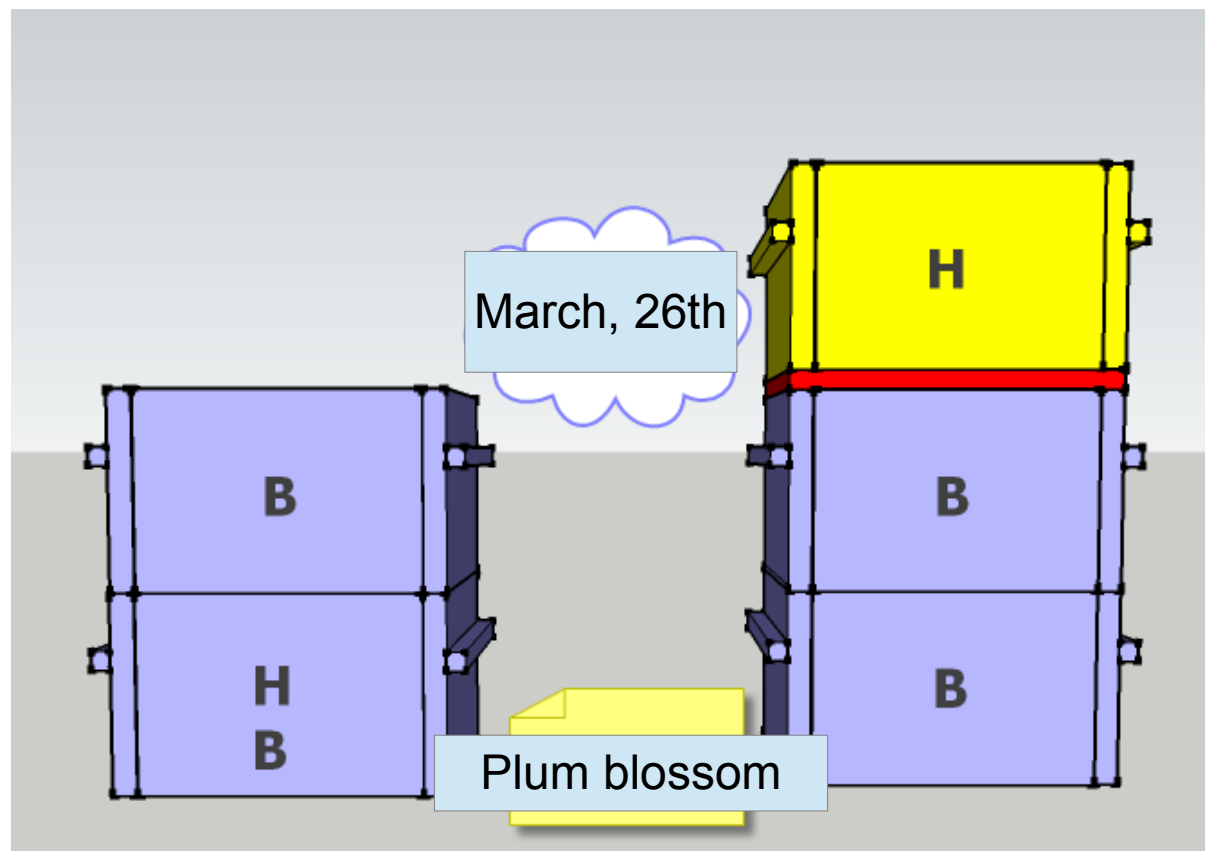
- Wintered in two hive boxes.
- If the honey got used up the initial brood nest is in the top box right below the rest of the honey dome.

# Spring manipulation



- First pollen flights (March) the hive boxes get swapped. The honey dome is cut open to start the expansion of the brood nest.
- The bees rebuild the honey dome thus freeing cells which receive eggs and brood.

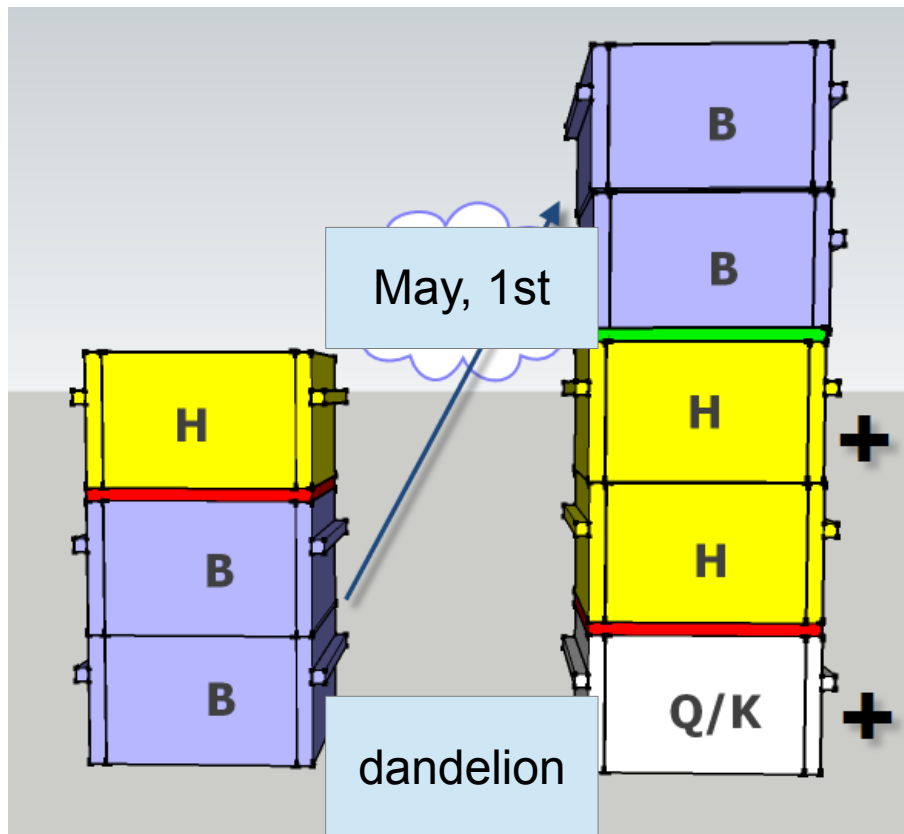
# First flow



- At the first strong nectar flow (plums) the first honey box is given to prevent backfilling of the broodnest and thus honey binding.

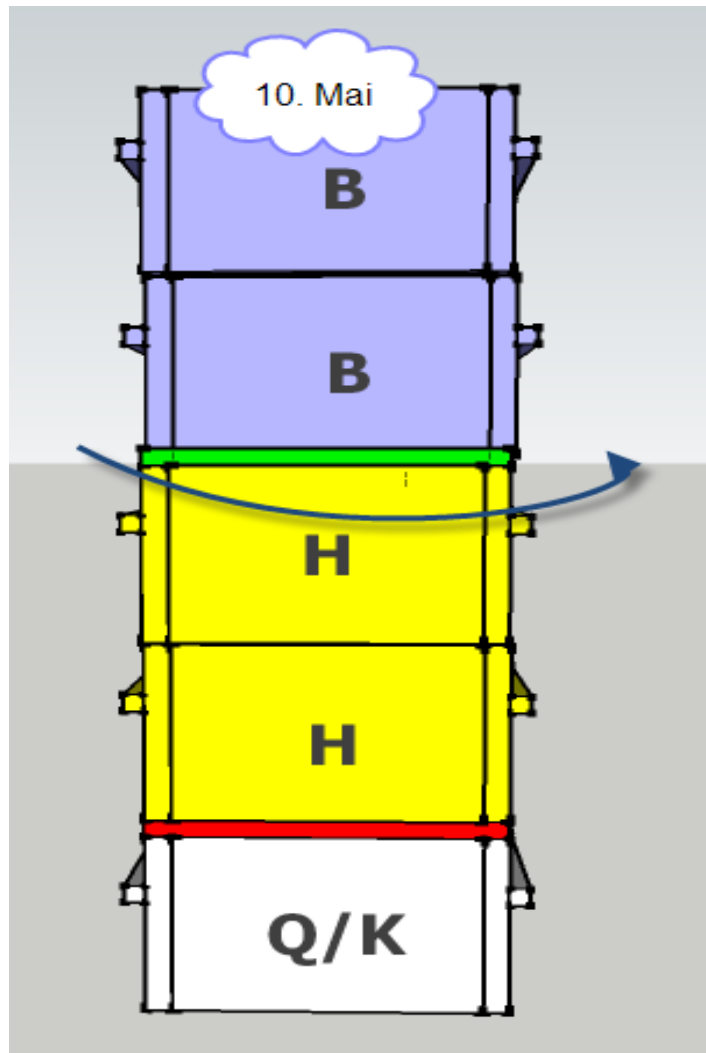


# Spring main flow



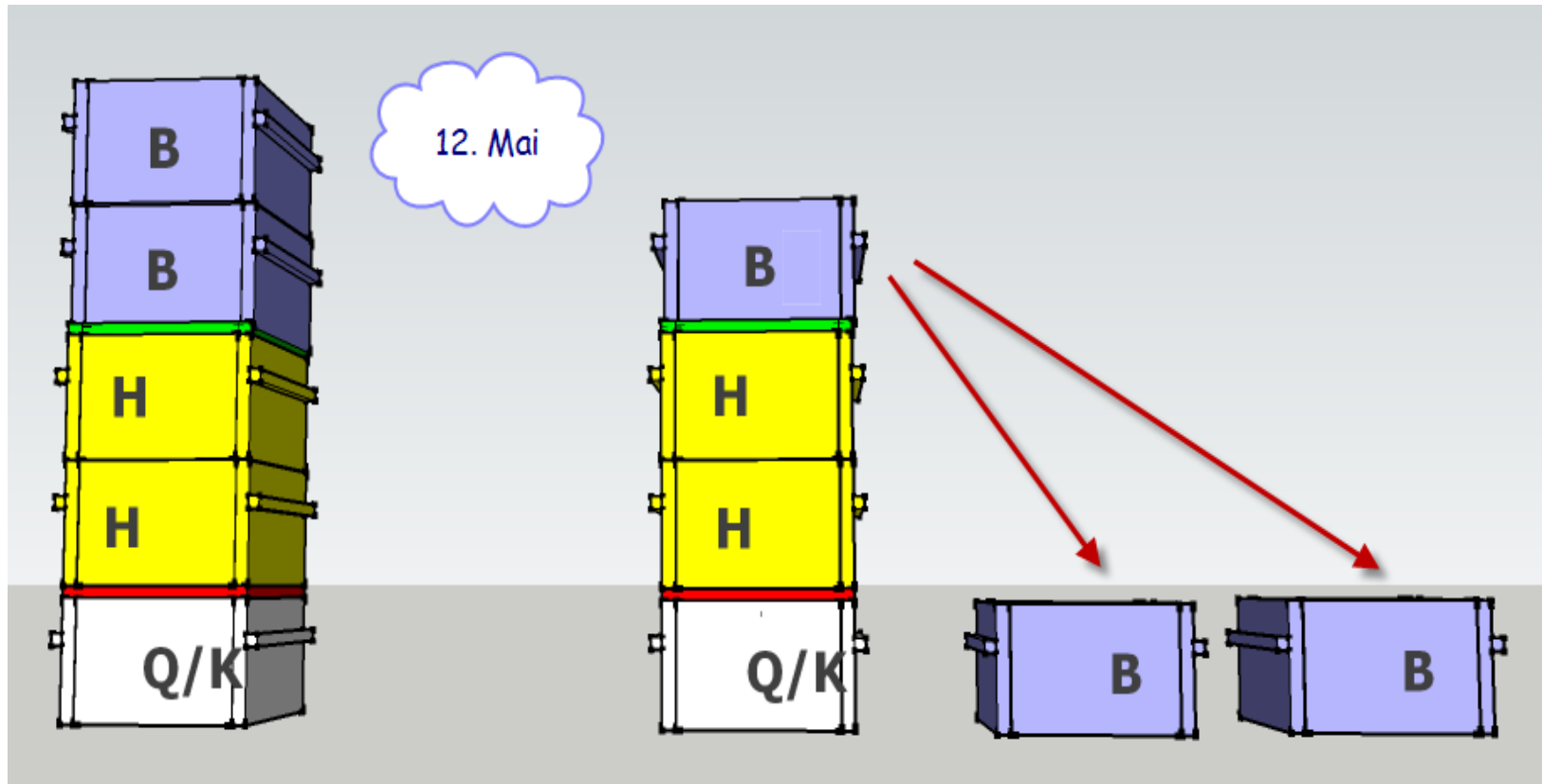
- When the spring main flow hits (fruit trees, dandelion) end of April an artificial swarm with old queen is made. Put into an empty brood box, one seed comb.
- Brood box (w/o the queen) is put above the Snelgrove-board.
- Another honey box is given.

# Redirection of the flight bees



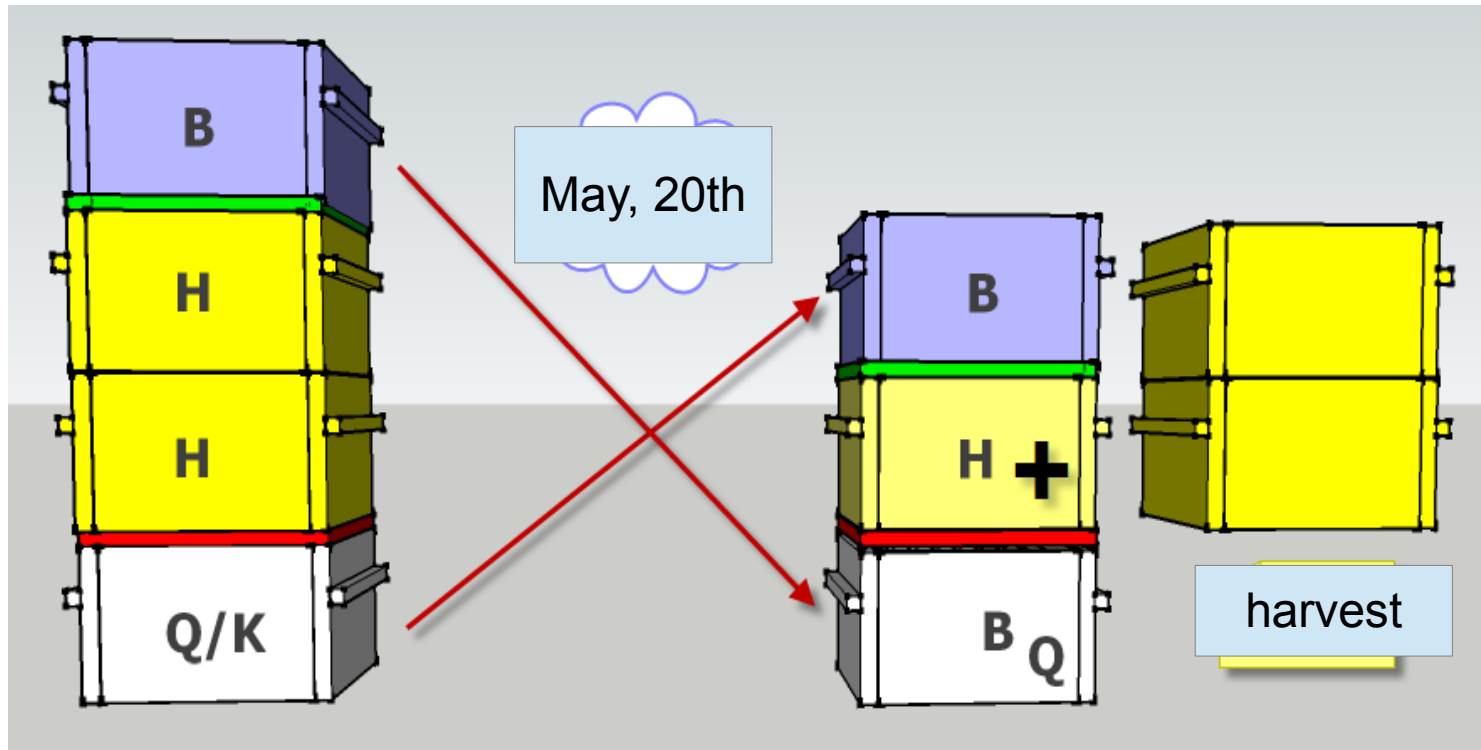
- After the brood in the topbox hatches, they soon start to forage. If there is lots of activity the front top entrance is closed, the front bottom entrance opened and the back top entrance is opened.
- The new flight bees are thus combined with the hive below.

# Rearing queens



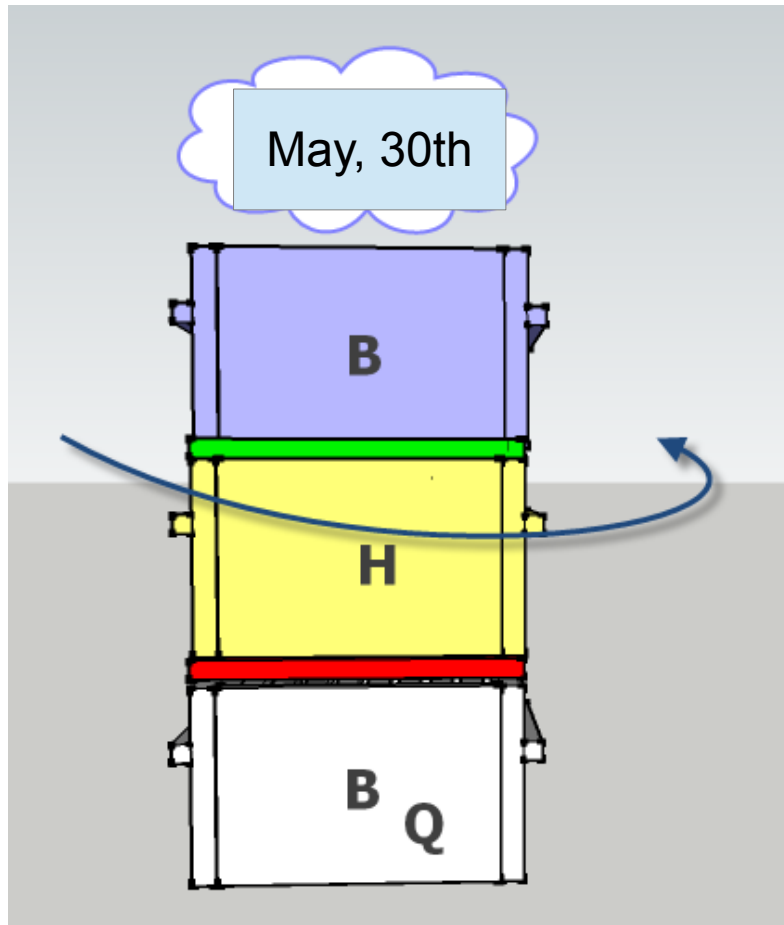
- You can raise queen cells in the top split, after they hatch you can put them into mating boxes.
- „Integrated“ queen raising

# Another round and first harvest



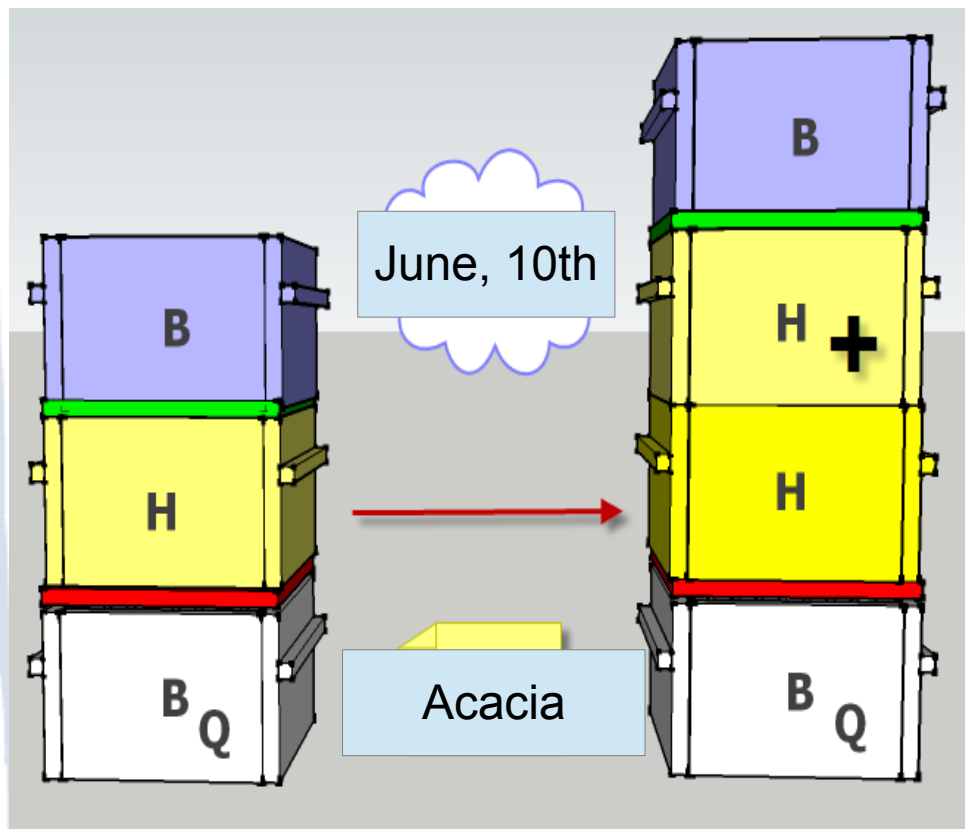
- 20 days later another swap of positions of the brood boxes
- The former top brood box has the brood hatched thus empty comb for the queen now to lay eggs. Requeen now.
- First honey harvest. Reduce honey boxes in order to dry honey.

# Redirection of bees



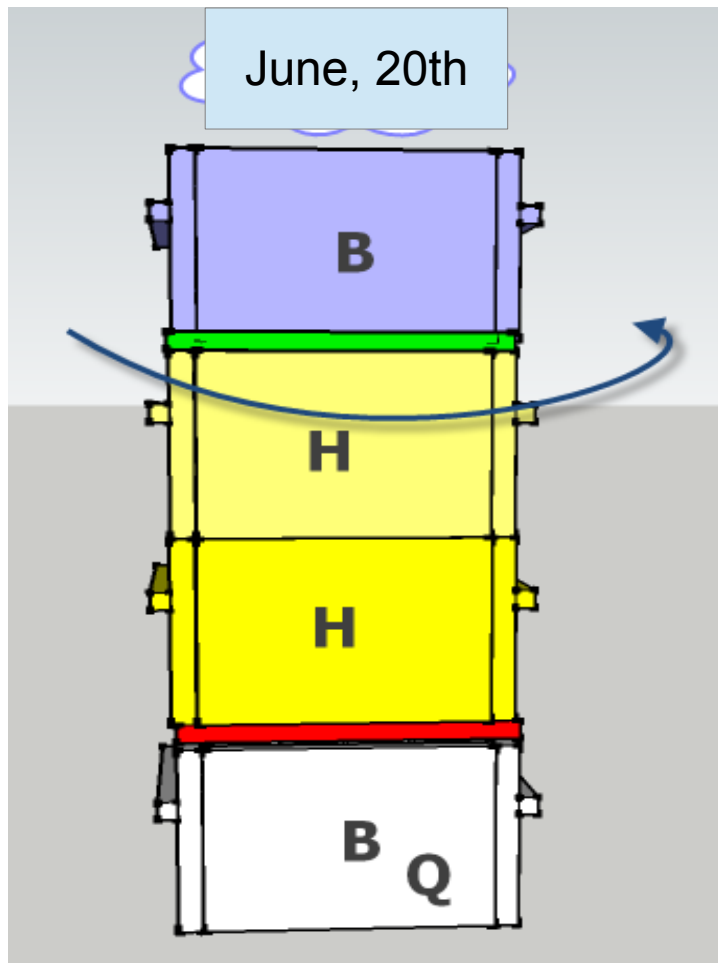
- Again the hatched new born bees get combined with the hive below by closing and opening the entrances
- The top back entrance get closed, the bottom back entrance opened, the top front entrance opened.

# Main flow



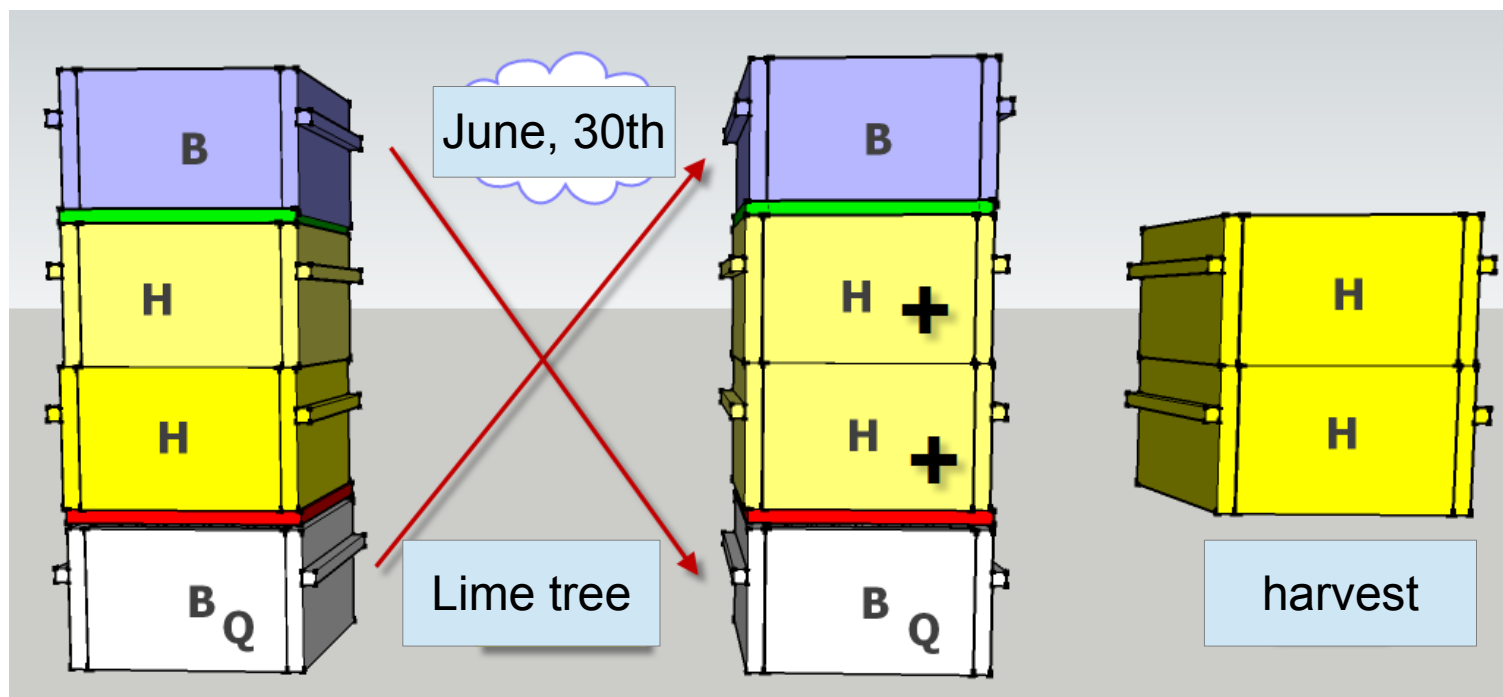
- Supering honey boxes
- Do let the bees get honey bound
- Care for a lot of bees so the honey gets dried up.
- Top entrance and top warmth of the brood = beneficial to honey ripening?

# Redirection of flight bees



- Another redirection.

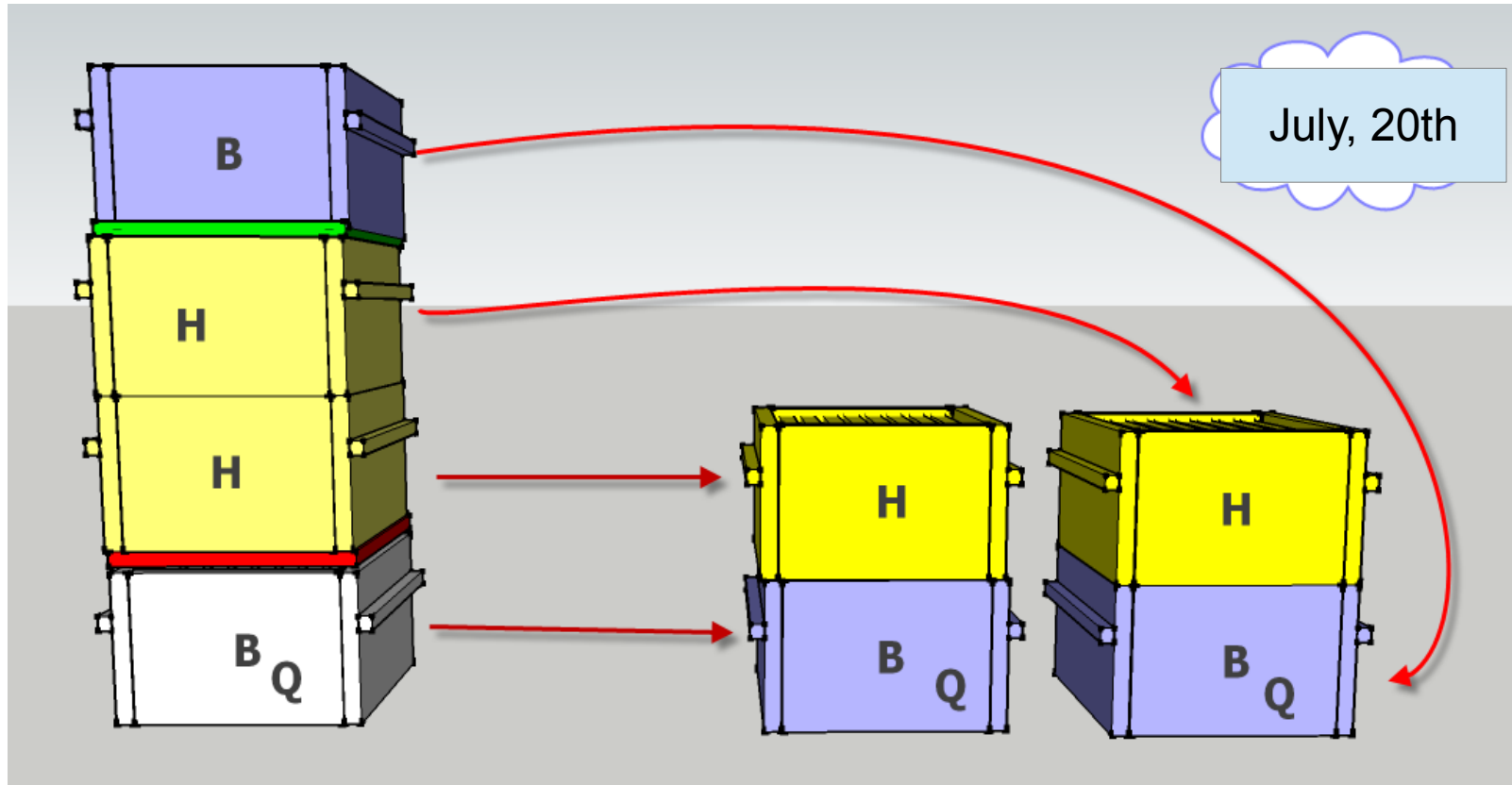
# Brood box reversal and harvest



- Just before the lime tree nectar flow: another reversal of brood boxes empty <> full
- Brood box full of brood goes to the top, empty comb down.
- Honey harvest



# Splitting at the end of season



- Split colonies into nucs after the last main flow.
- Requeen all colonies with young queens of the integrated queen rearing.

# remember

- Reverse brood boxes every 20 days.
- 10 days later reverse open/close entrances.
- 2 days later take out young queens from the top box.

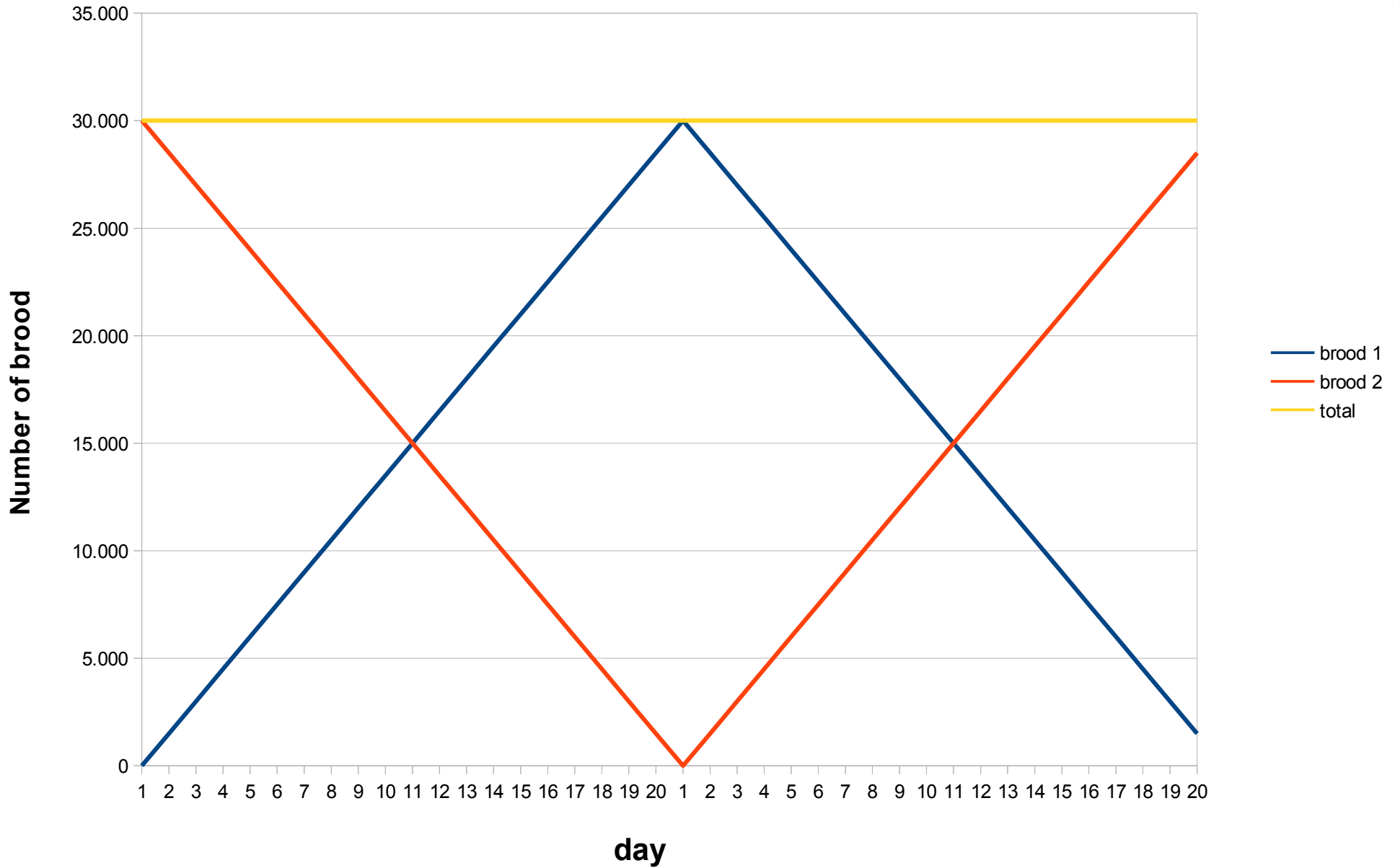
# Development of the brood

- While the one brood box receives eggs, the other brood box hatches and leaves behind empty comb.
- A queen lays 1,000-2,000 eggs per day. For calculations now we use 1,5000 eggs per day. Just as a rule of thumb.
- After about 20 days one full box should be filled with eggs and young brood.
- After 20 days the last brood hatches in the other brood box.

## Development of the brood

day	Brood box 1	Brood box 2
1	0	30.000
2	1.500	28.500
3	3.000	27.000
4	4.500	25.500
5	6.000	24.000
6	7.500	22.500
7	9.000	21.000
8	10.500	19.500
9	12.000	18.000
10	13.500	16.500
11	15.000	15.000
12	16.500	13.500
13	18.000	12.000
14	19.500	10.500
15	21.000	9.000
16	22.500	7.500
17	24.000	6.000
18	25.500	4.500
19	27.000	3.000
20	28.500	1.500

# Preservation of colony size



# Outlook

- Snelgrove-board for continual raising of queens usable?
- Varroa treatment of the top split possible while separated from the main hive? Powder sugar dusting?
- Improved honey drying because of warm top and top entrance? Stronger hives?
- Prevention of nectar backfilling/honey binding of the brood nest?