

Russian Scion - Русский отпрыск

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The Russian Scion is said to be a basic beekeeping tool in Russia. Most often they are used in your apiary to catch your bees that have swarmed or it can be used to attract a swarm that is passing by in search of a new home. It is used to attract a swarm of bees before they find a new cavity to call home. It provides a resting place for the swarm instead of a tree, birdbath, side of a house, etc..

Supplies you will need –

- 5-gallon bucket with a lid
- Window screen or burlap
- 3/8" Screw eye 4 1/2" long
- 2 pieces of 2x4 or 4x4 inches long
- 2 pieces of plywood 1/4" – 1/2" thick 6 1/2" square or diameter of the inside of your lid minus 1"
- 50 – 100 feet of rope
- Not pictured—
- Bees wax – old brood comb best or slumgum the leftovers after melting down comb
- Plywood



Tools you will need

- Drill
- 3/16" drill bit
- Hand saw
- Ruler
- 4 1" screws
- Screw Drive
- Staple gun
- Not pictured -
- Something to melt beeswax in and a brush



How to make –

1. Measure the distance from the lip of the bucket to the bottom. Subtract 2 inches from that measurement and this is the length your 2x4 or 4x4 need to be. Cut your 2x4 or 4x4 to length. If your bucket was 11 3/4" you would cut the board to 10"
2. Drill a 3/16" hole in the center of the bucket lid.
3. Drill a 3/16" hole in the center of the plywood. To find the middle draw a line diagonally from corner to corner and where the lines cross is the middle.
4. Drill a 3/16" hole in the center of the end of the 2x4 or 4x4. Use the same procedure in step 2 to find the center.
5. Place a piece of the plywood on the top and bottom of the bucket lid and screw the eye screw through the plywood, bucket lid, and plywood into the end of the 2x4 or 4x4.
6. Wrap the 2x4 or 4x4 with the window screen or burlap and staple it in place
7. Rub the post with slumgum, that black stuff left over when your melt down comb, or melt down comb and while still a liquid, liberally, brush it on the screen or burlap.
8. Tie the rope to the eye screw. Your Russian Scion is ready to deploy.



Finished scion with wax coated board and cotton ball with lemon grass



Scion (lid) with rope attached to eye screw and pulley

How to deploy

1. You want to place the scion in a location where you have seen swarms gather in previous years or in your apiary to catch your bees if they swarm.
2. You can hang a pulley with the rope from your scion threaded through it or you can throw the rope over a strong branch. The pulley will make easier to raise and lower your scion.
3. You want your scion to be 6-9 feet above the ground when it is hanging.
4. Hoist the scion up to the location and secure the end of the rope.
5. Check your scion frequently, at least twice a day. The idea is that rather than wait for a swarm to find your bee trap, you grab them between homes. A swarm leaves the hive, and they go to a temporary location (usually the same place as previous swarms). You put the scion on there to entice them and give them a nice smelling landing pad.
6. Once a swarm gathers, you gently lower the scion (via the long rope and pulley) into a 5 gallon bucket. Seal the lid tightly to keep the swarm inside the bucket.
7. Transport to the hive you want them in, and then dump or introduce the bees into their new home. It is recommended to have drawn comb and some with honey and pollens stores is even better
8. Once you have the bees in the new hive, you will close up the hive for 24-48 hours to make sure they establish and have lost the desire to fly away. You can redeploy your scion again.
9. After 24-48 hours, you can open the hive so the bees can take cleansing flights and get used to their surrounds.
10. After a week you can inspect the hive and see if you have a laying queen and how the colony is getting along