

Hints and Tips – Wasp Invasion

So my smallest hive (swarm captured from a shed) was making headway slowly until the wasps discover the hive. I saw wasps going into the hive and even saw one inside when I was inspecting. Was I going to sacrifice my charges to the wasps? Was I hell!!!

I used a combination of techniques, none new but they do seem to be effective.

1 The entrance block

Make sure you've got the smallest aperture possible and reach for the 2 litre polycarbonate drinks bottle.

Cut a 5" (125mm) section through the bottle	
Cut longitudinally through this section to create a strip. I've shown it here stapled to the entrance bar but you can just fit it around the entrance bar in the hive – friction will hold it in place.	

The bees quickly realise that they need to turn left or right once they come out; the wasps don't seem to be able to grasp this, poor things.

2 Wasp Catcher

Again reach for the 2litre polycarbonate drinks bottle

Mark to circles around the bottle – here I've put them either side of a strengthening ridge	
Cut through the bottle with a sharp knife or scissors and remove the cap. Put the removed section and cap in the recycling bin.	

Fit the top of the bottle, threaded end down, inside the base. Then make 4 holes at right angles to one another and ½"/ 12mm down from the edge. I used a hole punch for ease of use.



Cut, bend and fit 4 pieces of wire through the holes



Punch 4 holes through any convenient plastic cover, push the wires through the lid and bend over the ends of the wires. (The cover is to prevent rainwater diluting the beer we're going to put in the trap.)



Apart from putting a loop in the lid, filling it with beer (I use John Smith's bitter because it's cheap and the wasps seem to like it and I don't!), and hanging up near the hive in question - that's it.

This seems to be working and the bees are increasing in numbers without 'help' from the wasps!

