

## Making Swarm Lure (© My Beekeeping Kit 2020)

Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are attracted to the smell of lemongrass essential oil, it mimics the pheromone given off by the nasonov gland in worker bees used to communicate with other bees about orientation and recruitment. The nasonov pheromone is made up of a variety of components including geraniol, geranic acid, nerolic acid, and **citral**, which is one of the main natural components found in lemongrass essential oil. Bees are known to release them onto flowers to flag them to other bees as having nectar. Attracted to the citral of the lemongrass essential oil, a swarm can be encouraged to move into a cavity such as a nuc box, or hive set up to catch a swarm.

### Health and Safety Information

Hazards:

- Boiling water (100° C)
- Hot cooking equipment and utensils

Risks:

- Burns and scalds to personnel from hot equipment and products
- Spillage of liquids hot or cold
- Fire

Control:

- Have all necessary equipment, utensils to hand before starting
- Use only equipment and utensils which can be safely handle

### Recipe, scale up as required:

Ingredients:

- 60 ml olive oil (or rapeseed oil)
- 45 gm of clean beeswax
- 15 drops of lemongrass essential oil

Utensils:

- Glass measuring cup / bowl
- Pan of boiling water
- 100 ml wide top plastic or glass container

Method:

1. Add olive/rapeseed oil and beeswax to the glass measuring cup and place in a pan of boiling water, gently warming until completely melted.
2. Add 15 drops of lemongrass essential oil and stir until well combined.
3. Pour mixture into the plastic or glass container and let harden into a spreadable paste.

Use:

Bait your swarm trap by spreading the lure paste sparingly on the entrance and inside surfaces, frame tops etc. (too much can be a repellent!), then position the trap in a suitable location from the end of April to end of July. When re-baiting the trap only use a small amount around the entrance. It's not fool-proof but it will certainly improve your chances of a catch. A caught swarm should be left for a week or more to settle in and start to build comb before moving, or hiving.

Improve your chances even more with a custom built trap, see the June management page:  
[http://www.piperdewar.co.uk/bk2/seasons\\_june.html](http://www.piperdewar.co.uk/bk2/seasons_june.html)