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F1 queens are available all year around and bookings are essential. Our mating season is September through to April, but we can supply outside of this dates based on prior arrangements. Our weekly capacity is 250 queens and they can be delivered anywhere in the country. All queens are marked free of charge with a bright permanent disc. Whether you are looking for a steady supply of queens through the course of the season, or filling up large bee package order, Mana Queen has got you covered.



SUPPLYING SUPERIOR  
LIGUSTICA QUEEN BEES FOR  
DOMESTIC AND EXPORT MARKETS.



Mana Queen operates 2000 mating nucs in Marlborough the Marlborough Sounds, producing top performing open mated queens from strong and genetically diverse stock.

The breeding program was established in 2018, with a focus on disease resistance and mite tolerance . Foundation stock has been accumulated over the years through the sourcing and selection of the best Ligustica queens from the South and North Islands.

Mana Queen runs three different control groups for the selection of the next generation of breeder queens. This is achieved through comparative testing ,assessment of behavioral traits, and performance evaluation.



The primary and largest control group, encompasses 1000 mating units tested for hygienic behavior (HB) and low varroa growth (LVG).

The second group, consist of 100 honey production units tested for HB and LVG. These are certified organic production hives.



The third group, consist of 100 mating units tested for HB, LVG, and Varroa Sensitive Hygiene (VSH). These units are control mated in an isolated environment on Arapawa Island.

All three control groups are maintained according to organic principles, significantly increasing selection pressure. At no point are the queens exposed to synthetic pyrethroids that can have effect on their quality.

Disease resistance and mite tolerance are the most important traits of honeybees and that is why they are at the forefront of our livestock improvement program.

Genetic diversity is the key to healthy and productive colonies, that is why we select a large number of breeder queens from very a large base population.



Mana Queen breeds very docile and prolific bees with production rates that go beyond the average. Due to their ability to accumulate large quantities of nectar and pollen in short time, they build up rapidly in the spring and maintain a large population throughout the year while being reluctant to swarm. They use less propolis, exhibit strong hygienic instinct, wintering ability, and are easily adaptable to a wide range of microclimates and environmental conditions.

Our mating nucs have been designed and custom built to suit the requirement of modern commercial operations. The entire aspect of breeding from cell production , queen mating, to performance testing, and evaluation is utilized in these units, allowing for precise, effective and efficient management.



From the core of the 1000 wintering units, we can quickly expand to 2000 in the spring. This is done by placing a divider in the middle and the use of two separate entrances, allowing us to hold a large amount of queens for prolonged periods of time without the use of queen banking. In the past, we have supplied queens for export during May and in July for customers in the Northland.

