

## Stinger Removal Disarms Queen Bee



To keep two queens laying eggs in the same beehive, cut off their stingers, suggests E. J. Anderson, apiarist at the Pennsylvania State University Agricultural Experiment Station. The queen that he is working on, rendered unconscious with carbon dioxide gas, is in the plastic receptacle at the point of his scissors. The operation, which is about as painful as cutting one's fingernails, will keep her from stinging rival queens to death. Obviously, Anderson says, two or more queens could build-up colony population much faster and earlier in the season than one. Fruit and field crops would be more effectively pollinated and a larger honey flow would result. Problems have arisen but use of multiple, stingerless queens per colony will be further investigated this summer.

## Pa. Sour Cherry Production Down

Harrisburg — Pennsylvania's sour cherry crop this year will be the smallest since 1956, the Crop Reporting Service of the State Agriculture Department predicted.

Sour cherry orchards in Pennsylvania had a good bloom, but frost in Erie County cut the set of fruit sharply below last year. Frost damage was less severe in southern orchards.

The sour cherry crop in the five Great Lakes States—New York, Pennsylvania,

Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin—is estimated to be 15 per cent smaller than last year and 7 per cent below average. Only in Ohio is the crop expected to be better than in 1959. Western state production is 28 per cent under last year.

Total 1960 U. S. sour cherry production is forecast at 115,160 tons, 16 per cent under last year and 10 per cent below average.

About 9,000 tons of sour cherries are expected to be produced in Pennsylvania. Harvest is expected to start July 1-4 in southern growing areas and about July 10 in Erie County.

## Stingless Queen Bees Live In The Same Colony

No successful means ever has been devised to keep two normal queen bees laying eggs in the same hive. However, two queen bees with portions of their stingers cut off, have lived together peacefully in tests at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station.

Both queen bees were made unconscious with carbon dioxide gas for the delicate operation, reports E. J. Anderson, professor of beekeeping at the Pennsylvania State University. After their stingers were cut, the queens got acquainted in futile combat—and then settled down in the hive to lay eggs and ignore each other.

Professor Anderson says two or more peaceful queens in a colony would increase the number of workers, with better chances for a big honey flow. Likewise, fruit less hot tempered in usual and field seed crops would be more effectively pollinated. This procedure, if successful would avoid the usual

springtime "balling" and swarming.

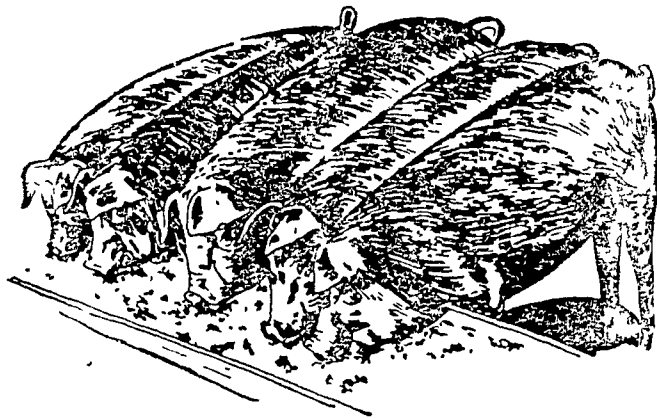
The Penn State trials have been conducted in one-frame glass hives in Anderson's laboratory where the bees can be watched.

Some queen bees are apparently more docile than others, he reports, and also

some groups of workers in practice, if a new queen develops in a hive or is introduced, the queens fight the workers may form balls about them and kill one.

In the trials, the queens usually fought until they were exhausted. Some times these fights lasted for hours. In some cases, the workers killed each other. Only one set of clipped queens has been successfully produced to date. The process is under further study.

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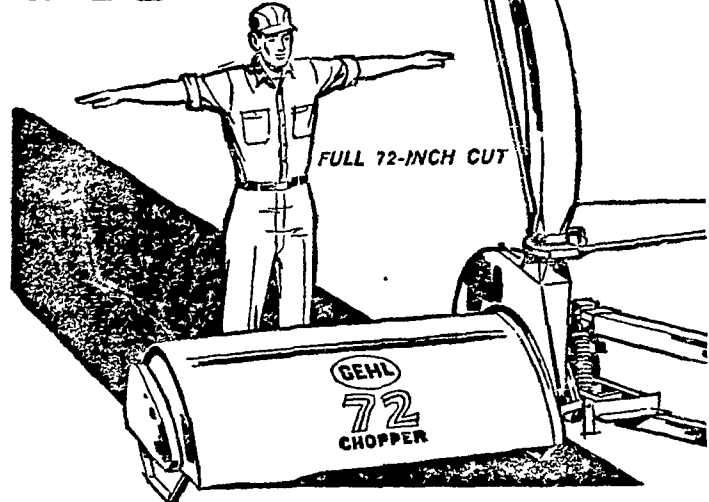
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