

Grading scale and guide in Danish queenbreeding.

Swarming.	Temper.	Behaviour on the comb/ flightyness
5 No queen cells with eggs.	5 No stinging. The colony can be handle without the use of smoke.	5 Very calm. The bees behaves calm on the comb, even when provoked. Easy to shake of the combs. Doesn't fly up when shaken from the comb.
4 Queen cells with eggs. Nothing done to prevent swarming. No swarming.	4 No stinging, when moderate smoke is used.	4 Calm. The bees are slightly runny on the combs (doesn't fly of unprovoked, but will fly if the comb is shaken).
3 Queen cells with eggs. One intervention is made. No swarming.	3 1-3 stings unprovoked, after moderate smoking	3 Nervous bees. The bees are runny on the combs, and a few bees will fly of unprovoked.
2 Queen cells with eggs/queen larvae are fed. Swarm preventing interventions is made one or multiple times. No swarming.	2 4-10 stings unprovoked, after smoking.	2 Unresty bees. The bees are runny. Several bees will fly of unprovoked.
1 Colony swarmed.	1 Agressive. Stings willingly regardless of smoking.	1 Very unresty bees. Many bees in the air.

Note.

In practice, only grades 1 and 5 are given, if the queen line is considered stable, as swarm preventing interventions are not made, others than if swarming is considered unavoidable. For new material the whole scale is needed.

Note.

When grading stable lines decimal numbers are used from grade 3.5 and upwards, since the spread here should be too small to be graduated in whole characters.

Note.

When grading stable lines decimal numbers are used from grade 3.5 and upwards, since the spread here should be too small to be graduated in whole characters.

Full grading is done at least three times over the season, and preferably in all kinds of weather.

If the present queen is introduced in the colony in the autumn period, make sure that all bees from the previous queen has left the colony before grading starts.