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When the scouts return with a good location, the bees move together to their new home. The builders get to work building out the hexagonal cells of the hive and the foraging bees take up their collections of nectar and pollen. The workers begin tending to the queen again. They feed her and she begins laying eggs again.

The new hive grows and, if it stays healthy, will split again when the time is right. If a beekeeper finds a swarm—on a branch, for example— in between hives, she can sweep the whole group of bees into a box and provide a new home for them.

At Sweet Virginia, we love to get calls that a hive is swarming. If you ever see a swarm, leave it alone, don't spray anything on it, and be sure to call your local beekeeper for help!