



April repro swarms / brood nest reduction for nectar

First 3 weeks,

- enlarge the entrance if not done in March
- check brood and queen *twice* as in late March for swarm preps
- continue to reverse hive bodies every 10 – 14 days

Third week (just before major - white wax - honey flow starts, ~ 4/20),

- check broodnest again
- super again w/ either foundation or drawn comb *in anticipation of* major storage needs
- equalize foragers by exchanging hives while foragers are out in the middle of the day

Blossoming: Black Locust, variable; Blackberry (light tan / gray pollen), 4/20 – 5/22; Clover, 4/14 - ; Holly 4/14 - ; Tulip Poplar (powder yellow pollen), 4/20 – 5/26; *Black Gum*, 4/26 – 5/10; hardwood leafout, 4/1 – 4/24

May brood nest reduction / honey production

Every 10 days,

- check and add supers as necessary, move less full peripheral super frames into the middle of the existing super
- only check the broodnest / queen once if a problem is suspected (with the honey flow)!

Later (about 5/22),

- harvest Spring Wildflower (amber, mostly blackberry) honey ?? (capped frames); leave uncapped Tulip Poplar (dark) honey supers on hive
- order Fall queens

Piedmont blossoming dates: Poison Ivy (orange pollen) to 5/23; Tulip Poplar to 5/26; American Holly, 5/1 – 5/16; Raspberry, 5/12 – 6/2; Persimmon, 5/20 – 6/2; Sumac, 5/23 – 6/10

Mountain blossoming dates: American Holly, 5/8 – 5/23; Black Locust, 5/15 – 5/28; Tulip Poplar, 5/25 – 6/18; Sourwood, 6/25 – 7/25

June honey production

Mid – Late (after the major honey flow is over and the bees return to Clover),

- check the broodnest / queen once in all hives
- put bee escapes on the day before, and / or use fume board or leaf blower to
- harvest dark Tulip Poplar honey and extract it
- process the wax cappings

Last week,

- ensure hives for Sourwood have broodnests full of honey and fortify them with extra bees as necessary
- move those strong hives to the Mountains (1100 - 2200 ft) for the Sourwood honey flow
- super each with 9 frames of drawn comb

Piedmont blossoming dates: Sumac to 6/12; Vitex about 6/10 - ; Clover

Mountain blossoming dates: Sumac to 6/28; Sourwood, 6/26 – 7/25



