

The background of the slide is a warm-toned honeycomb pattern. A honey dipper is positioned diagonally across the center, with honey dripping from its end. The honey is a golden-brown color, and the honeycomb cells are outlined in a darker shade of the same color. The overall lighting is soft and warm, creating a cozy and inviting atmosphere.

Honey Plants

NEKBA

Beginning Beekeeping Class

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What is a Honey Plant and How do bees locate food sources?

- A honey plant is a plant with blooms that produces nectar honey bees can make honey from.
- Scout bees use sight and smell to locate nectar and pollen sources.
- Honey bees will seek out nectar with the highest sugar content.
- Honey bees like to work efficiently. They search for large masses of blooms.
- Scout bees use the waggle dance to communicate their find to the rest of the colony.



Maples

Great sources of nectar and pollen.

Includes:

Silver Maples: Late February-Mid March

Red Maples: March

Amur Maples: April

Norway and Box Elder: April



Willows

- Includes:
- *Salix caprea* aka Pussy Willow: Early – Mid March
- Weeping Willow: April
- Great source of pollen.
- Also provides nectar.

- *Pictured top: Pussy Willow, male catkins*
- *Pictured bottom: Weeping Willow bloom*



Dandelions and Henbit

- Both can begin blooming in Late March or Early April.
- Both are excellent sources of pollen.
- Dandelion pollen produces a near complete protein. The wax produced on new foundation is very yellow. Pollen is bright yellow.
- Henbit pollen is a red to purple color.
- Dandelions are critical in areas with low floral diversity.



Redbuds and Crabapples

Blooms late March or Early April.

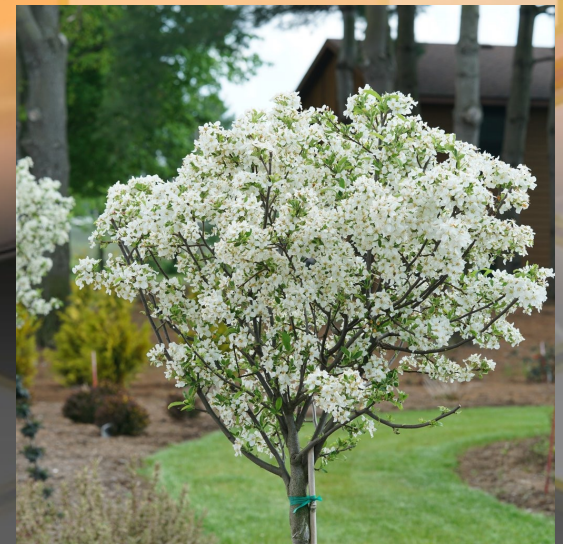
Both are good sources for nectar and pollen.

Start of seeing multiple species blooming at the same time.

Good timing for Spring build-up.

Crabapples are available in many different varieties and bloom colors.

Planting different varieties of crabapple can result in staggered blooming times.



Fruit Trees

Apricots, Apples, Peaches, Cherries, and Plums

- **Good sources of pollen and nectar stimulates brood rearing.**
- Apricots: Late March-Early April
- Plums and Wild Plums: Late March-Early April
- Ornamental and Fruiting Cherries: Late March-Early April
- Peaches: Late March-Early April
- Apples: April

- *Photo credit: Cheryl Burkhead, Apricot bloom*

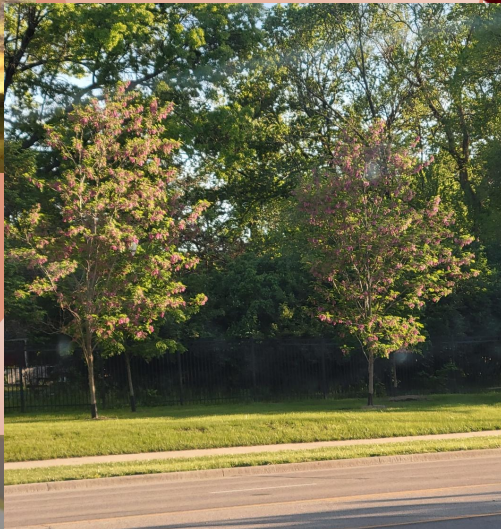


May Black Locust Blackberries and Raspberries



- Black Locust produces a prized, premium, light, mild tasting honey .
- Rain during blooming of Black Locust can wash the nectar out of the blooms.
- Blackberries and Raspberries are very good nectar and pollen sources.
- *Pictured: Black Locust (top and right) and Blackberry (bottom)*

Black Locust



CLOVERS

Major sources of nectar and pollen in NE KS

Late April: Alsike and White Dutch Clover

- Long blooming
- Produces a light honey
- Can bloom through August



Mid-May: Yellow Sweet Clover

- Blooms last 2 weeks or more



Late May: White Sweet Clover

- Blooms can last through June

- Pictured clockwise: Alsike, White Dutch, White Swt., and Yellow Swt.



Lindens and Basswood

- Bloom in early late May or early June.
- Both are excellent sources of nectar and pollen.
- Basswood is native tree growing up to 100 ft.
- Lindens are a frequently used for landscaping homes, parks, and cities.
- Blooms 7-10 days and fragrant.
- Pollen is yellowish-orange.



Sunflowers

August



- Annual and native Sunflowers
- Are both beneficial.
- Provides nectar and pollen.
- Produces an amber honey.
- Can be the first food source available after July 1.



Goldenrod

Nectar and Pollen source.

Begins blooming in early August.

Honey granulates easily.

Makes a great winter food.

Stiff Goldenrod is a good food source.

Canada Goldenrod is common in KS. Not a favored food by honey bees.

Asters

September

- Last food source in the fall.
- Asters produce nectar and yellow pollen.
- Nectar source with strong smell.
- Aster honey granulates quickly.
- Three varieties: Aromatic aster, New England aster, and Heath Aster.

- *Pictured clockwise: New England Aster, Heath Aster, and Aromatic Aster*



Keep Records

What is blooming and when

- Start a record of honey plants that bloom in your area.
- Build on this record year after year. Build on previous year's record and create a data base.
- This will help you learn plant names, bloom times, and honey plants.
- You will be able to anticipate when to add honey supers, a potential dearth, and when feeding is imperative.

