

Bee Chronicles

1 April 2025

7 March

Forsythia is starting to bloom not much use to HB blossom too deep and narrow

Red maple still before peak bloom

Lenten Rose still good bloom

Hembit weed blooming nicely

Japanese/French magnolia blooming, white one will get frozen

All pollen is not equal; some HB don't collect (oak) Some have no food value (pine) that they do collect. Some are attracted to leaving 2nd best behind and/or mixing it with good pollen neutralizing the ill effects.

17 March Heavy rain and high winds stripped nearly all the Red Maple blossoms off the trees. Some protected trees still have a few blossoms. Don't mistake the red stems of the flowers for flowers. Get out your binoculars. This will severely hamper nectar collection for 2 weeks (until another good bloomer comes along).

The Bradford Pears that were in bloom were not hurt as badly. These blossoms were in a younger, more durable stage. Many white petals are on the ground, but the blooms will still produce honey.

18 Mar. Went over the mountain to Monroe GA. Going downhill to Cleveland GA the Eastern Red Buds are blooming. I will give mine 2 weeks before they start blooming and producing nectar.

19 Mar. I see Pagoda plants blooming. It looks a lot like the Henbit weed which is still blooming but is taller, standing nicely above the not growing yet grass.

Start watching for Black Locust blooms (white) way up in the tall trees. It sneaks up on you.

20 Mar. My edible pears are blooming, red buds are open enough the bees are visiting it. Lots of pollen colors starting.

24 March Sweet bush, white spirea, Sassafras starting, Thrift blooming nicely, Quince flowers holding well (long slow bloom with cooler temps is the best).

I am watching Sarvis Berry (Service Berry) It is supposed to bloom before Easter.

Don't get excited about the coming pine pollen season. It has no food value for honeybees

Keep feeding syrup mixed with old honey. The HB's stopped taking in artificial pollen substitute. Feed Pollen patties if you desire helping the hive. Nurse bees eating "bee bread" produce more and better enzymes which are mixed with the bee bread for larvae food and royal jelly.