

## Bee Pasture—McDowell County, NC

17Jan19

Listed by first bloom time for McDowell County, NC---varies +- 1 month (elevation, yearly variations, etc.)  
Red---Plant native to McDowell County    Black---Plant exotic or foreign to McDowell County

### January

**Recommended:**

Silver Maple (*Acer saccharum*) Deciduous tree (50-75'), pollen \*\*\*\*\* nectar \*\* 1 tree/hive.

**Very Good:**

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis* spp., including *vernalis*) Deciduous shrub (10-12') bloom 4-6 weeks,  
pollen\* nectar\* (Witch Hazel species other than *H. virginiana* bloom January---March.

Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) Deciduous climbing shrub (4-6') bloom Nov-Mar,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\* Does not contain toxic alkaloids like the native Carolina Jasmine does.

### February

**Recommended:**

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) Deciduous tree (50-70'), bloom 40 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar \*\*\* 1 tree/hive.

American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) Deciduous shrub (15-20'), pollen \*\*\*\* nectar none 1 shrub/hive.

Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) Perennial bulb (4-7"), pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\* 30 bulbs/hive.

Crocus (*Crocus* spp.), Blub (2-4"), pollen \*\*\* nectar \*\*

(early bloomers: *C. chrysanthus*, Cream Beauty & *C. tommasinianus*) 30 bulbs/hive.

**Very Good:**

Hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*) Evergreen Perennial (18-20"), pollen \*\*\* nectar \*\*\*

Sweet Box (*Sarcococca hookeriana*) deciduous evergreen (2-3') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen \*\* nectar \*\*\*

Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*) Bulb (4-5") bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*

### March

**Recommended:**

Pussy Willow (*Salix caprea*), Perennial, pollen \*\*\*\* nectar\*\* {need both male & female plants}  
2 shrubs (1 male & 1 female)/hive.

Sweet Breath of Spring/Chinese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*),  
Semi-deciduous shrub (4-6'), pollen\*\*\*\* nectar\*\*\* 1 shrub/hive

Japanese Quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*), Deciduous shrub (5-6') pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
(growing in meadow). 1 shrub/hive.

Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) Semi-evergreen shrub (2-3'), pollen\* nectar\*\*\*\* 2 shrubs/hive.

Enkianthus (*Enkianthus perulatus*) Deciduous shrub (5-7'), pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\* 1 shrub/hive.

Black Alder tree (*Alnus glutinosa*) Deciduous tree (60-80'), pollen\*\*\* nectar none 1 tree/hive.

Ornamental Cherry (*Prunus 'Okame*) deciduous tree (20-30'), pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\* 1 tree/hive.

**Very Good:**

Apple & Crabapple Trees (Domestic & Ornamental), Deciduous Fruit Trees, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*

Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*), Deciduous Fruit Tree (20-30'), pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*

Sweet Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Deciduous Fruit Tree (50-70'), pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*

Yoshino Cherry (*Prunus x yedoensis*), Deciduous Tree (40-60'), pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*

Gooseberry (*Ribes grossularia*) Deciduous shrub (3-4'), pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*

**Good:**

Weeping Willow tree (*Salix babylonica*), Deciduous tree (30-45'), pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

Japanese Apricot (*Prunus mume*) Deciduous tree/shrub (20-25'), pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) Deciduous tree/shrub (20-40'), pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

American Plum (*Prunus americana*), Deciduous fruit tree, wild plum, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

Henbit Dead Nettle (*Lamium amplexicaule*) Perennial (8-10"), pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

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## **April**

### ***Recommended:***

- Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)** Deciduous tree (40-60') bloom 10 days (27Apr-7May), pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\* 1 tree/hive.
- Tulip Poplar/Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)** Deciduous tree (100-150') bloom 29 days (25Apr-24May), pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\*
- Sweet Cherry (*Prunus avium*) Deciduous fruit tree (50-70') bloom 5-8 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\*
- Oak-Leaved Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) Deciduous shrub (5-8') bloom 7-10 days, 1 shrub/hive. pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*
- Ornamental Apple/Japanese Crabapple (*Malus floribunda*, early variety) Deciduous tree (20-30') bloom 7-10 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\* 1 tree/hive.
- American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)** Evergreen tree, (30-40') bloom 15 days (30Apr-15May), pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\* bloom 6-10 days 1 male tree/hive.
- Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) Deciduous tree (20-25') bloom 7-10 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\* 1 tree/hive.
- Nevada Rose (*Rosa Nevada*) Deciduous shrub (5-7'), bloom 7-14 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\* 1 shrub/hive.

### ***Very Good:***

- Blackberries (*Rubus fruticosus*)** Deciduous & evergreen climber, bloom 7-14 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*
- Northern Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)** Deciduous shrub (3-8') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*
- Trifolium Clovers
- White/Dutch Clover (*Trifolium repens*) Perennial Legume (4-6") bloom 102 days (14Apr-25Jul), pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\*
- Alsike Clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), bloom 102 days (4Apr-15Jul), Major nectar source.
- Crimson Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*), bloom 25 days (10Apr-5May), Major nectar source.
- Many other *Trifolium spp.*, Major nectar source.
- Black Tupelo/Tupelo/Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)** Deciduous tree (50-80') bloom 14 days (26Apr-10May), pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\* Source of excellent honey.

### ***Good:***

- Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)** Deciduous tree (50-80') bloom 5-8 days, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*
- Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) Deciduous shrub (10-15') bloom 7-10 days, pollen\* nectar\*\*
- Garden Strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa*) Perennial (10-14") bloom 6-10 days, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

## **May**

### ***Recommended:***

- Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)** Deciduous shrub (3-10') bloom 7-10 days, pollen\*\*\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\* 2 plants/hive.
- Motherwort (*Leonus cardiaca*) Perennial (2-3') bloom 2 months, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\* 6 plants/hive; excellent bee foraging plant.
- Alder Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) Deciduous tree (12-20') bloom 7-10 days, pollen\*\*\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\* 1 shrub/hive; excellent bee foraging plant.
- Common Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*) Herbaceous biennial (4-6') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\* 6-12 plants/hive.
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) deciduous shrub (6-10') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\* 1 shrub/hive.
- Little-Leaf Linden tree (*Tilia cordata*) Deciduous tree (58-80') bloom 7-10 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\* 1 tree/hive; excellent bee foraging plant.
- Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) Biennial/Perennial (12-31") spring & fall blooms, bloom 2 months. Considered the best honeybee food source. Produces lots of excellent light amber honey w/ pleasant taste. Very slow to crystallize.

### ***Very Good:***

- Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster dammeri*) Evergreen shrub (3-6') bloom 7-14 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*
- Mountain Ash (*Sorbus amurensis*, also *S. rufoferruginea*) Deciduous tree (25-30') bloom 5-8 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*

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American Mountain Ash (*Sorbus Americana*) Deciduous tree (40') Similar to *Sorbus spp.* above.  
Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) Perennial (2-3') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) Perennial herb (24") bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
White Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*) Perennial Legume (6') bloom May-Aug, major nectar source.  
Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) Annual or biennial Legume (4-6') bloom May-Aug,  
Prefers pH >6.5. Toxic when moldy. Major nectar source.  
Sweet Clovers (*Melilotus spp.*) Yellow & White, bloom 37 days (28May-4Jul),  
Best honey producer & best honey is White Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*).  
Borage (*Borago officinalis*) Annual herb (18-24") bloom spring thru summer, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Self-seeding annual (survives over winter).

**Good:**

Common Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) Semi-evergreen shrub (8-10') bloom 23 days (8May-31May),  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Common Grape Vine (*Vitis vinifera*) Domestic & Wild, Deciduous climber (5-20') bloom 5-8 days,  
pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*  
Carolina False Dandelion  
Common Wild Rose/Virginia Rose (*Rosa virginiana*)

## June

**Recommended:**

Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) Deciduous tree (20-40') bloom 3 weeks (25Jun-20Jul),  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\* 1 tree/hive; **Best Honey in the World!**  
Mexican Abelia (*Abelia floribunda*), Semi-evergreen shrub (6-10') bloom June to November  
Bloom 4-6 months. 1 shrub/hive.  
Inkberry/Gallberry (*Ilex glabra*) Evergreen shrub (6-10') bloom 3-4 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*  
2 shrubs/hive; excellent honey producer (light color mild flavor); prefers acidic soil.  
Japanese Sweet Shrub (*Clethra barbinervis*) Deciduous shrub (10-15') bloom 2-3 weeks,  
pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\* 1 shrub/hive.  
Spiked Speedwell (*Veronica spicata*) Perennial (18") bloom 4-6 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
6 plants/hive.  
Bee-Bee-Tree (*Tetradium daniellii*) Deciduous tree (20-40') bloom 2-3 weeks, trees w/ male flowers are  
best, pollen\*\*\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\* 1 tree/hive.  
Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) Deciduous tree (25-35') bloom 2 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
1 tree/hive. Cultivar 'September Gold' flowers in late summer.  
Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) Deciduous shrub (10-20') bloom 5-10 days, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*  
American Basswood (*Tilia americana*) Deciduous tree (60-120') bloom 10-14 days,  
major nectar source every 5-8 years.

**Very Good:**

Chinese Chives/Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*) Perennial (18-24") pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*  
Japanese Chestnut (*Castanea crenata*) Deciduous tree (40-80') bloom 6-10 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum sagittatum*) Annual (1-2') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
very good bee foraging plant (bloom begins 4 weeks after planting). Occasional severe allergic  
reactions in humans from eating sprouts, leaves, juice, etc.  
Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis*) Perennial evergreen herb (24") bloom 3-4 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Essential oil is highly antiseptic & cough suppressing. Imparts aromatic quality to honey.  
Spearment (*Mentha spicata*) Perennial herb, (12-18") bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*  
Essential oil (menthol flavoring & insecticide).  
Rose (*Rosa spp.*) Wild & cultivated, Deciduous shrub (1-15') bloom 3-5 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*  
Essential oil (aromatic).  
Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*) Perennial herb bloom 45-50 days (summer), major nectar source.  
Delicate honey w/ light pink color. Essential oil.  
Phacelia/Tansy (*Phacelia spp.*) Prefers very thick topsoil, bloom 45-60 days, Excellent nectar sources.

**Good:**

Butterfly Weed/Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) Perennial (12-36") pollen\* nectar\*\*\*

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**Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)**

Chinese Chestnut tree (*Castanea mollissima*) Deciduous tree (60')

Mimosa trees (*Albizia julibrissin*) Deciduous tree (30-40') bloom 10-14 days, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

**Bee Balm (*Monarda spp.*) Annuals & Perennials, pollen\* nectar\*\***

Essential oil Thymol (antiseptic, insecticide, flavoring).

Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia fauriei*, Fantasy) Deciduous shrub (15-20') bloom 2-3 weeks,  
pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*

Thyme (*Thymus praecox*, & *T. vulgaris*) Evergreen Perennial (3-6") bloom 2-4 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Essential oil Thymol (antiseptic, insecticide, flavoring).

Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*, formerly *Epilobium angustifolium*) Perennial (3-9') bloom June-Sept,  
major nectar source. Prefers slightly acidic to alkaline soils. Very early succession species.  
Produces water white honey w/ mild flavor.

## July and August

### Recommended:

Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus castus*) Deciduous shrub (5-15') bloom 3-4 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
1 shrub/hive.

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) Annuals, pollen\*\*\*\* nectar\*\*\* 24 plants/hive.

Russian Sage (*Perovskia abotanoides*) Perennial (3-5') bloom 4-5 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\* 6 plants/hive.

Common Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) deciduous shrub (2-7') bloom 3-4 months,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\* 2 shrubs/hive.

**Wingstem/Yellow Ironweed (*Verbesina alternifolia*) Perennial (3-5') bloom 4-5 weeks,  
pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\* 6 plants/hive.**

Japanese Angelica Tree (*Aralia elata Variegata*) Deciduous tree (20-40') bloom 3-4 weeks,  
pollen\*\*\*\* nectar\*\* 1 tree/hive.

Bluebeard (*Caryopteris clandonensis* & *C. incana*) deciduous shrub (3-5') bloom 3-4 weeks,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\* 2 shrubs/hive .

**Shining Sumac (*Rhus copallina*) Deciduous shrub (10-20') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*\*  
1 shrub/hive.**

Japanese Pagoda Tree (*Sophora japonica*) deciduous tree (50-100') bloom 12-16 days,  
pollen\*\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\* 1 tree/hive.

Goldenrod (*Solidago rugose*, Fireworks) Perennial, (2-6') bloom 67 days (8Aug-14Oct), blooms till frost,  
pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\* 12 plants/ hive.

### Very Good:

Mignonette (*Reseda odorata*) Annual (12") bloom June to December, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*

Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) Deciduous climber bloom 1-2 weeks,  
pollen\*\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*

### Good:

**Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) Deciduous shrub (5-10') bloom 2-3 weeks,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\***

Sweet Pepper Bush (*Clethra alnifolia*) Deciduous shrub (5-10') bloom 8-14 days,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*

Flat-leaved Eryngium (*Eryngium planum*) Perennial (2-3') bloom 4-5 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*

**Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) Evergreen tree (20-80') bloom 3-4 weeks,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\***

Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) Annul herb (24") bloom 4-6 weeks,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\* Essential oil (flavoring).

**Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) deciduous climber (10-20') bloom 7-10 days,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\***

**Mountain Mint/American Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* & *P. virginianum*) Perennial herb  
(1-2') bloom 2-4 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\***

Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) Deciduous shrub (15-20') bloom 3-4 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*

Dahlia (*Dahlia pinnata*) Perennial (3-7') bloom July to October, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

## September

### **Recommended:**

PeeGee Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculate*) Deciduous shrub (8-15') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
1 shrub/hive  
Seven Son Flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*) Deciduous shrub (10-15') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\*  
nectar\*\*\* 1 shrub/hive  
Stonecrop (*Sedum, Autumn Joy*) Deciduous perennial (1-2') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
3 plants/hive  
Maackia (*Maackia amurensis*) Deciduous tree (30-50') bloom 10-14 days, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*\* 1 tree/hive

### **Very Good:**

Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) Perennial, (2-3') bloom 3-4 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Onion (*Allium cepa*) Biennial bulb (1-2') bloom 1-2 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*  
English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) bloom 2-3 weeks, climber pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Chinese Sumac (*Rhus chinensis*) Deciduous shrub (15-25') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Stonecrop (*Sedum spectabile, Matrona*) Perennial (18-30") bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Chinese Sumac (*Rhus chinensis*) Deciduous shrub (15-25') pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*

### **Good:**

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache anethiodora*) pollen\* nectar\*\*\*  
Giant Hyssop (*Agastache Mexicana, Blue Fortune*) pollen\* nectar\*\*\*  
Ornamental Onion (*Allium aflatunense, Summer Beauty*) pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Giant onion (*Allium giganteum*) pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
**Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*)** pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Clematis (*Clematis x jouiniana*) pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
**Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum, Gateway*)** pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Apple Mint (*Mentha suaveolens*) pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*) pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
**Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata & R. nitida*)** pollen\*\*\* nectar\*  
Burnet (*Sanguisorba tenuifolia, Purpurea*) pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Scaevola (*Scaevola aemula, Saphira*) pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Sage (*Salvia, Indigo Spires*) Perennial pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Stonecrop (*Sedum spectabile, Matrona*) Perennial, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
False Starwort (*Boltonia asteroides*) Perennial (3-5') bloom 3-4 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Crested Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata, Prestige Scarlet*) Annual (1-2') bloom 4-6 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Cockscomb (*Celosia plumose*) Annual (12-30") bloom 4-6 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*) Bulb (4-6") bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium serotinum*) Perennial (3-4') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Morning Glory (*Ipomea purpurea*) Annual climber (10-12') bloom 4-5 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*  
Knotweed (*Polygonum affine var. Compactum*) Perennial (1-2') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Silver Lace Vine (*Polygonum aubertii*) Climber (20') bloom 2 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) Perennial (5-8') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Rosyleaf Sage (*Salvia involucrate, Rosebud*) Perennial (2') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Sternbergia (*Sternbergia clusiana*) Bulb (3-4") bloom 7-10 days, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

## October

### **Recommended:**

Bush Clover (*Lespedeza thunbergii*) Deciduous shrub (4-8') bloom 3 weeks, pollen\*\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*\*  
1 shrub/hive.  
Aster (*Aster novae-anglia*) Perennial (3-4') bloom 10-14 days, pollen\*\*, nectar\*\* 1 plant/hive.  
Crocus (*Crocus speciosus*) Bulb (4-8") bloom 1-2 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\* 30 bulbs/hive.  
Thorny Elaeagnus (*Elagnus pungens*) Evergreen shrub/tree (8-12') bloom 2-3 weeks, 1 tree/hive.  
Maximillian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximilliani*) Perennial (4-7') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*  
2 plants/hive.  
Sage (*Salvia guarantica*) Perennial (3-4') bloom 3-4 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
(blossoms need cuts by bumbles), 12 plants/hive.

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**Onion (*Allium cernuum*)**, bulb, (18-30") bloom 10-14 days, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) Perennial (2-3') bloom 3-4 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Scarlet Sage (*Salvia splendens*) Annual (3') bloom 4-5 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Texas Sage (*Salvia coccinea*) Annual (24-30") bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Shasta Daisy (*Chrysanthemum maximum x superbum*) Perennial (2-3') bloom 2-3 weeks,  
pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*  
Japanese Anemone (*Anemone x hybrid, Honorine Jobert*) Perennial (2-4') bloom 2-3 weeks,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Aster (*Aster laevis, Bluebird*) Perennial (18") bloom 2 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
**White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum, Chocolate; now moved to *Ageratina altissima**) Perennial (3-4')  
bloom 1-2 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
poisonous (tremetol) to horses, cows, goats, sheep & humans.**  
Swamp Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius, Mellow-Yellow*) Perennial (4-6') bloom 2-3 weeks,  
pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Lion's Ear (*Leonotis leonurus*) Annual/Perennial (3-6') bloom 3-4 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Winter Savory (*Satureja montana*) Annual (10-16") bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Lily of the Field (*Stenbergia lutea*) Bulb (6-8") bloom 2 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*  
Glory Bush (*Tibouchina semidecandra*) Shrub (4-6') bloom months (Oct is best), pollen\*\* nectar\*\*

## **November**

### **Recommended:**

Fragrant Osmanthus (*Osmanthus fragrans*) Evergreen shrub/tree (10-20') bloom 2-4 weeks,  
pollen\*\*\*\* nectar\*\*\* 1 plant/hive.  
Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum rubellum*) Perennial (18") bloom 2-3 weeks,  
pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\* 3 plants/hive.

### **Very Good:**

Tatarian Aster (*Aster tataricus*) Perennial, (5-7') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum pacificum*) Perennial (12") bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Osmanthus (*Osmanthus armatus*) Evergreen shrub (6-10') bloom 3 weeks, pollen\*\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
Sage (*Salvia elegans*) perennial, (3-5') bloom 2-3 weeks, pollen\*\* nectar\*\*\*  
**Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) Deciduous shrub (10-12') bloom 4-6 weeks, pollen\* nectar\***

## **December**

## Other Useful Plants

Linden Trees other than American Basswood (European Linden Trees).  
Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) wetland species.

## Poisonous Honey

- A) Ericaceae Family Poisonous plants: Mad Honey (Honeys with grayanotoxins. Can causes sickness & death in Humans). **NOTE: Sourwood, Carolina rhododendron, Flame Azalea & blueberry are also in the Ericaceae Family, but no toxicity is reported.**

*Rhododendron ponticum* (aka Common Rhododendron, Pontic Rhododendron).

Southern Europe & SW Asia. Kills honey bees *Apis mellifera*.

*Rhododendron luteum* (aka Yellow Azalea, Honeysuckle Azalea). SE Europe & SW Asia.

*Andromeda polifolia* (aka Bog-Rosemary). Northern Europe & Asia, NE North America.

*Kalmia angustifolia* (aka Lamb-Kill, Sheep-Kill, Calf-Kill, Pig-Laurel, Sheep-Laurel, Sheep-Poison).  
NE US.

***Kalmia latifolia* (aka Mountain Laurel, Calico-Bush, Spoonwood, Ivybush). Eastern US.**

**Produces very bitter honey**

**Non-toxic to honey bees *Apis mellifera*, but can make humans sick for a few hours.**

Leather-Leaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) shrub---probably toxic?

Marsh Tea Plant/Marsh Labrador Tea (*Rhododendron tomentosum*)---probably toxic?

- B) Honey with Strychnine-related Gelsemine: Gelsemiaceae Family

**Yellow Jessamine/Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) Pollen kills honeybees *Apis mellifera*, honey sickens & can reportedly kill humans.**

- C) Other Poisonous Plants:

Monk's Hood/Aconite/Wolf's Bane (*Aconitum spp.*) Ranunculaceae Family. Plants are deadly poisonous, so honey from nectar is suspect.

California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) pollen is fatal to honeybees.

Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) pollen &/or nectar may also be poisonous (seeds are slightly poisonous to humans).

## References

First Frost---(Marion) October 19-Nov 13

Last Frost---(Marion) March 29-April 20

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