Feeding Bees

Nectar Sources in WNC

- Primary nectar sources
  - April – black locusts
  - May – tulip poplar
  - July – sourwood
- Learn when these bloom in your area
- Add honey supers before the blooms occur

Nectar Sources in WNC

Many nectar sources
- Privet*
- Tulip Poplar*
- Sourwood*
- Honeysuckle*
- Sumac*
- Blackberry
- Basswood*
- Black locust
- Goldenrod
- Buckwheat
- Cotton
- Pepper
- Pumpkin
- American Holly

Mountain Region		*Average Mountain Bloom Period*			*Pollen*
Plant Name	**Scientific Name**	**Starts**	**Days**	**Ends**	
Red Maple	*Acer rubrum*	5-Mar	35	9-Apr	C0B095
Sumac	*Rhus spp.*	8-Apr	146	1-Sep	F6BB43
Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*	1-May	50	20-Jun	F29D4B
Black Gum	*Nyssa sylvatica*	5-May	10	15-May	F7DC6F
Holly	*Ilex spp.*	8-May	15	23-May	F7DC6F
Black Locust	*Robinia pseudoacacia*	15-May	14	29-May	DAF7A6
Raspberry	*Rubus spp.*	17-May	17	3-Jun	DCDCDC
Persimmon	*Diospyros virginiana*	22-May	15	6-Jun	FAD749
Tulip Poplar	*Liriodendrum tulipifera*	25-May	23	17-Jun	FCF3CF
Ladino, White Clovers	*Trifolium repens*	29-May	51	19-Jul	859D6C
Sweet Clover	*Melilotus spp.*	8-Jun	53	31-Jul	
Basswood, Linden	*Tilia spp.*	20-Jun	23	13-Jul	FFCE19
Sourwood	*Oxydendrum arboreum*	25-Jun	25	20-Jul	FCF3CF
Aster	*Aster spp.*	30-Aug	40	9-Oct	F8CD76

When to Feed Your Bees

- When colony has depleted its resources (winter/spring)
- When medicating, using sugar water to deliver the medicine
- When installing a package
- When bees are placed on foundation
  - Sugar syrup stimulates the wax glands
- When installing a swarm*
- When requeening
  - Feed sugar syrup to stimulate a nectar flow
  - Honey bees are more willing to accept a new queen
- When queen rearing

What to Feed Your Bees

- Sugar Syrup (homemade) → **Heavy Feed Sugar Syrup**
  - 2 parts Sugar : 1 Part Water
  - Dry sugar (white cane or beet)
  - Cold tap water (do not heat)

  - Use large pot or bucket
  - Measure in sugar
  - Measure in water
  - Stir to help sugar dissolve
  - Once sugar is no longer visible, the mixture is ready to feed to the bees
  - *Note: A Light Feed Recipe is 1 part sugar to 1 part water*
- Dry Sugar
- Sugar Cakes
- Candy board
- Fondant
- Honey
- Pollen
- Pollen Substitutes
- Winter Patties*

- Never Corn Syrup

Pollen Substitutes

- Pollen substitute options:
  - Soybean flour
  - 4 parts soybean flour : 1 part brewer's yeast
  - 10 parts soybean flour : 6 parts casein : 3 parts Brewer's yeast: 1 part egg yolk powder
  - Combine 4-5 parts of one above option with 2 parts heavy sugar syrup (3:1 sugar : water)

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/

Mason Jar Feeder Examples

Boardman Feeder

Quad Top Hive Feeder

Hive Top Feeder Examples

In-Hive Feeder

Feeder Pail

In-Hive Feeder Examples

Division Board In-Hive Feeder

Cap and Ladder Feeder

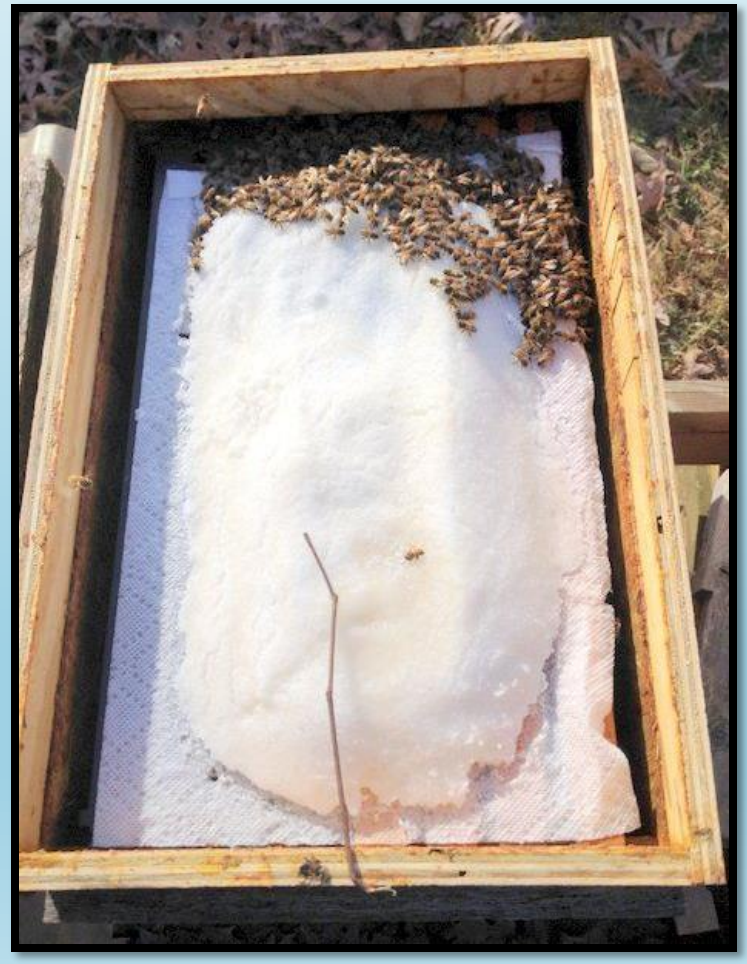
DIY In-Hive Feeder Example

Division Board In-Hive Feeder

- Simple chicken feeder repurposed into a bee feeder
- Use rocks for bee rests and prevent drowning

Dry Sugar Examples

Sugar Pile (emergency feed)



Candy Board (great for winter)

The Best Feeders

The bees own honey and pollen

Questions?