

## Honey Flow Calendar

**January** – Mistletoe – (produces abundant nectar according to the *Texas Honeyplant* book but hive population too low to harvest much)

**February** – I've seen pollen but no honey flow coming in early February. Some Elm and wild mustard pollen, but mainly Dandelion and Henbit pollen

**March** – Dandelion

**April** – [Yaupon Holly](#), [Indian Blanket](#) (this is the big honey flow – light and tasty. Shows up right after bluebonnet fades), [Mesquite tree](#) (the biggest honey source in the state)

**May** – Indian Blanket, [Horsemint](#), Sweet Clover

**June** – [Horsemint](#), Mesquite, Sweet Clover, Indian Blanket

**July** – none, Central Texas is scorched and even the roads melt.

**August** – [Broomweed](#) (if rain occurs)

**September** – [Broomweed](#), [Goldenrod](#) (main flow), Asters

**October** – [Goldenrod](#),

**November** – [Broomweed](#) (if moisture permits)

### ***Beneficial Trees and Shrubs for Bees***

#### ***Trees:***

**Mountain Laurel:** Small evergreen tree, often multi-trunked, up to 30 feet, very fragrant purple blooms in early spring.

**Eve's Necklace:** Slender deciduous tree, 15-30 feet, fragrant wisteria-like pink blooms, re-seeds vigorously.

**Mexican Buckeye:** Deciduous shrubby tree up to 30 feet, multi-trunked, pink redbud-like blooms in early spring, readily re-seeds.

**Guajillo:** Shrub-like acacia up to 30 feet, very fragrant balls of white-to-cream-colored flowers in early spring, good source of nectar producing high quality honey.

**Huisache**—Multi-trunked shrubby tree 15-20 feet, very showy orange-yellow flowers covering the whole tree in early spring, quite fragrant but thorny.

**Goldenball Lead Tree:** Evergreen, slender shrub or small tree up to 15 feet, many showy balls of golden-yellow flowers throughout spring and summer after rains.

**Mexican Persimmon**—Usually 10-15 feet but can reach 35, often multi-trunked, blooms while leafing out in March or April, smooth gray bark with the habit of peeling like crape myrtle, sweet fruit in mid to late summer, very drought tolerant.

**Common Hop Tree, Wafer Ash**—Aromatic shrub or tree, 10-15 feet, small fragrant flowers in April, sun or shade, works as understory tree, good nectar source.

**Live Oak**—Pollen source in spring.

**Anaqua, Sandpaper Tree**—Semi-evergreen 20-45 feet, often with suckers or multiple trunks, sandpaper-like leaves, fragrant white flowers in April, good nectar source.

**Almond Verbena**—“Honey bee magnet,” 10-15 feet, full sun to part shade, mostly evergreen, strong fragrance, long blooming, fast growing, high heat tolerance (Argentina).

**Desert Willow**—From 15-40 feet, fragrant pink flowers after rain from late spring to fall, *very* drought tolerant.

**Vitex**—Fast grower, 15-25 feet, lilac blossoms May to Sept., drought tolerant, can form thickets, considered invasive in some areas (China, Japan).

**Brasil, Bluewood Condalia**—Thorny, much-branched, thicket-forming shrub or small tree, 12-36 feet, lime green leaves in early spring, greenish flowers June-Sept., fruit very desirable for mammals and birds, drought tolerant.

**Western Soapberry**—Attractive and hardy tree, 10-50 feet tall depending on soil conditions, large clusters of cream-colored flowers May-June, berries attractive to birds, berries traditionally used as soap substitute, good fall color.

**Mexican Olive**—South Texas tree 12-24 feet, sun to part shade, showy white flowers primarily late spring through summer, fruit attractive to mammals and birds.

**Crape Myrtle**—Many varieties and colors, 3-30+ feet, smooth gray bark with the habit of peeling, very heat tolerant, summer blooms important pollen source for bees and other insects, (India and Southeast Asia).

**Texas Kidneywood**—Many-branched shrub or tree, up to 10 feet, fern-like foliage, small white flowers May to Oct., delicate fragrance, highly attractive to bees.

**Evergreen Sumac**—Small tree 8-12 feet, shiny green foliage, fast-growing, drought-tolerant, sometimes takes irregular shape, clusters of white flowers in the fall very attractive to bees, red berries in winter (female plants only) attractive to birds

### ***Shrubs:***

**White Honeysuckle, Texas Honeysuckle**—Deciduous shrub 4-10 feet, *very* fragrant white flowers, earliest bloomer in the spring, orange-red fruit attractive to birds, very attractive to bees.

**Elbowbush**—Thicket-forming shrub to 10 feet, typically branches at right angles, small yellowish flowers in very early spring, good source of nectar.

**Hogplum, Snakewood, Colubrina**—Thicket-forming shrub, 3-6 feet with a rounded crown and a snakeskin-like pattern on the bark, small greenish-yellow flowers in late spring.

**Agarita**—Evergreen shrub 3-8 feet, leaves with sharp spines, very fragrant yellow flowers in early spring, edible fruit appearing May-July.

**Salvia Guarantica, Black and Blue Sage**—From 2-5 feet, sun to part shade, deep blue flowers summer-fall, likes a little water in hot weather (South America).

**Mealy Blue Sage**—From 2-3 feet, blue to almost purple flowers April to Oct., sun to part sun, easy to grow, very desirable plant.

**Yellow Bells, Esperanza**—Clusters of trumpet-shaped yellow flowers, very showy, height from 3-9 feet, drought tolerant, sun to part shade (Be sure to purchase a *southwestern* rather than a

tropical variety.)

**Mexican Honeysuckle**—Evergreen 3-4 feet, spread 4-6 feet, bright orange tubular flowers spring until frost, very heat tolerant, full to part sun, spreads readily/many “volunteers” (Mexico and South America) .

**Rock Rose, Pavonia**—From 3-6 feet, profuse pink blooms April-Nov., drought tolerant, sun to part shade, well-drained soil but will grow almost anywhere, seeds prolifically, many “volunteer,” very desirable.

**Texas Lantana**—From 3-6 feet, flowers red/yellow/orange in summer, drought tolerant, full sun, well-drained soil, deer-resistant.

**Salvia Greggii, Autumn Sage**—Mounding shrub, usually 2-3 feet (some cultivars larger than others), variety of colors from white to burgundy, blooms heaviest in spring and fall or after summer rains, nearly evergreen, drought tolerant.

**Turk’s Cap, Texas Mallow**—Usually 2-3 feet but up to 9, often as broad as it is tall, profuse red hibiscus-like flowers, blooms May-Nov., part shade to shade, drought tolerant but likes moisture

**Bee Brush, Whitebrush**—Up to 10 feet, sun to part shade, slender trunk, delicate leaves, prolific bloomer after rains March-Nov., vanilla-scented white blossoms, great for bees.

**Cenizo, Purple Sage**—From 2-8 feet, gray foliage with bright pink-lavender flowers, blooms spring-fall after rain, sun to part shade, drought and heat tolerant, needs good drainage.

**Skeleton-Leaf Goldeneye, Resinbush**—Much branched with rounded top, 2-4 feet, prolific yellow daisy-like flowers June-Oct., sun to part shade, very heat and drought tolerant, needs good drainage.

**Velvetleaf Mallow**—Up to 5 feet, velvety leaves, orange-yellow flowers June-Oct., part shade, well-drained soil, larval host for butterflies.

**Indian Mallow**—From 2-3 feet, much-branched, small orange-yellow flowers June-Oct., sun to part shade, drought tolerant, well-drained soil, liked by deer, larval host to butterflies.

**Coralberry, Indian Currant**--From 4-6 feet though often shorter, green-white clusters of flowers, showy coral-pink to purple, forms extensive colonies, part shade to shade, low water use [pollen].

**White Mistflower, Shrubby Boneset**—Rounded shrub 2-6 feet, sun, drought tolerant, well-drained soil, moderately deer resistant, fall bloomer, fragrant white flowers.

**Lindheimer Senna, Velvetleaf Senna**—From 3-6 feet, sun to part shade, dry rocky soil, low water use, yellow flowers Aug.-Oct., larval host to butterflies.

**Mexican Bush Sage, Salvia Leucantha**—From 3-6 feet, fast grower in clumps, full sun to part shade, medium moisture, showy purple bloom summer to fall.

**Salvia Madrensis, Forsythia Sage**—From 6-8 feet, sun to partial shade, large heart-shaped leaves, thick stems, dramatic yellow flowers in the fall.

**Frostweed**—From 3-6 feet, part shade to shade, well-drained soil, low water use, deer resistant, white flowers in the fall, attracts butterflies, valuable to bees

DOES THIS FLOWER MAKE MY  
BUTT LOOK BIG



Ainslie  
2019