

This Month in the Hive



METRO BEEKEEPERS



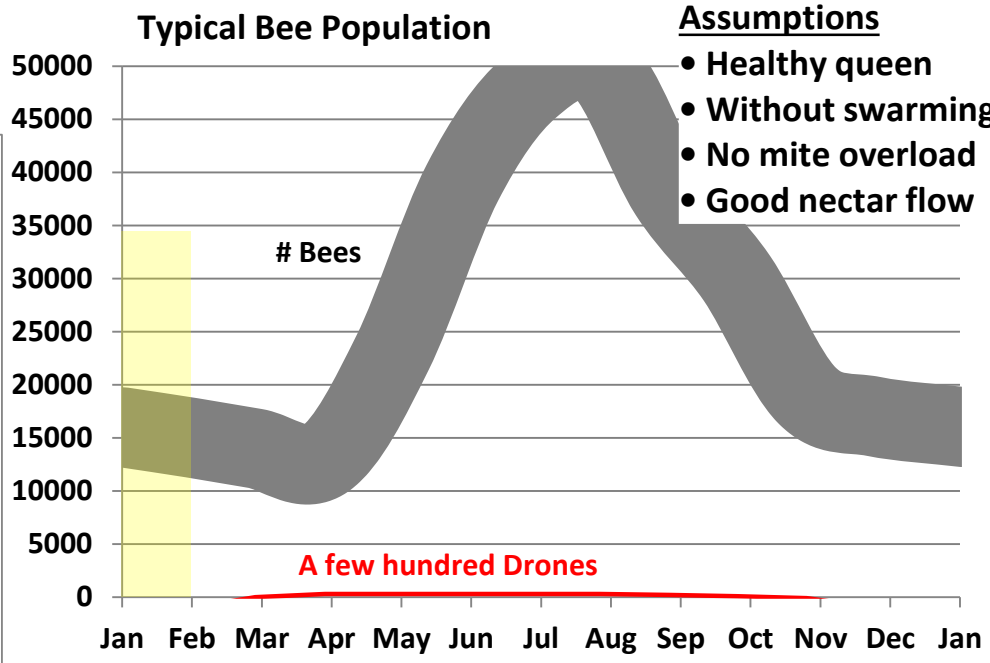
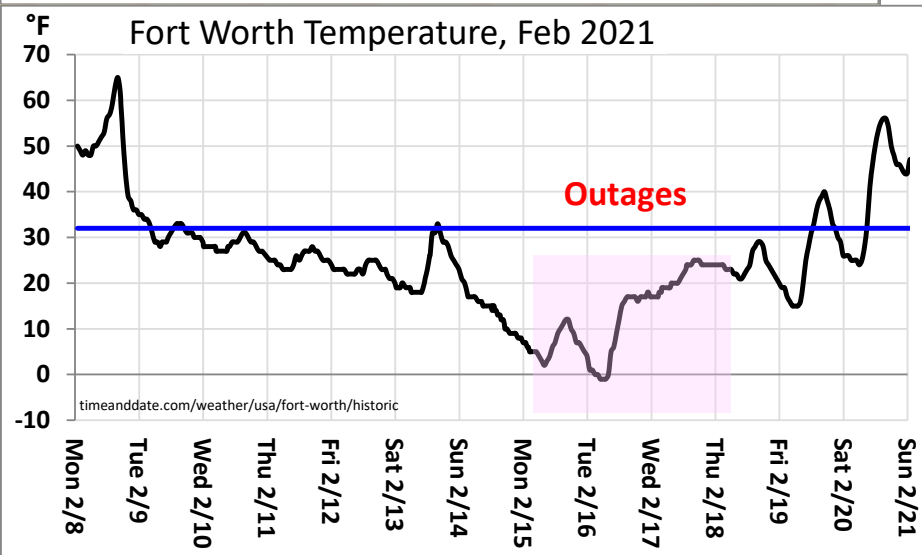
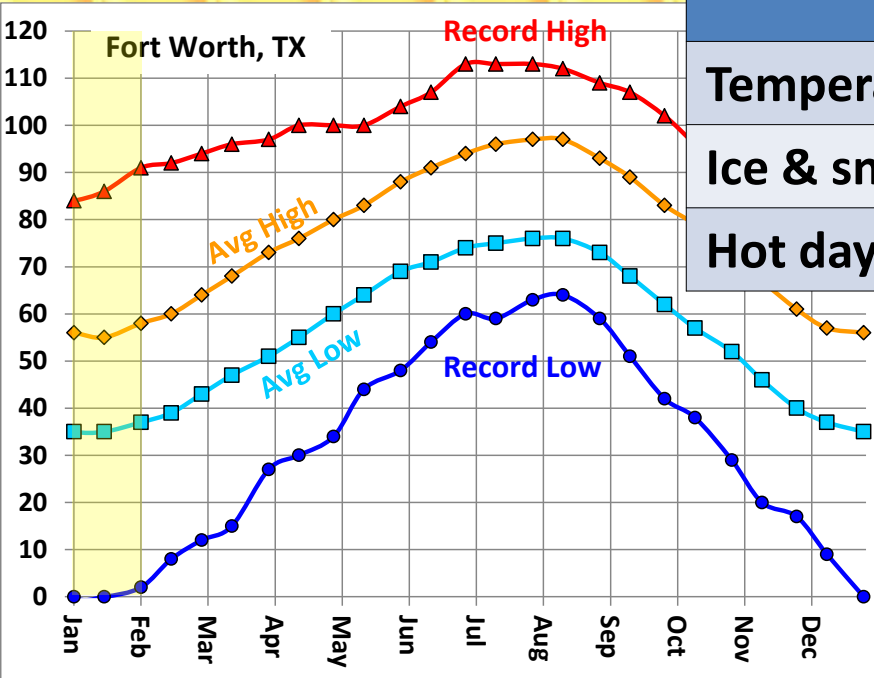
January in the Hive: Weather

Weather

Temperatures between 0° & 90°

Ice & snow are possible

Hot days allow foraging, blooms



- Assumptions**
- Healthy queen
 - Without swarming
 - No mite overload
 - Good nectar flow



January in the Hive: Blooms

- **Some pollen available in January**
 - **Dandelion**
 - **Honeysuckle**
 - **Rosemary**
 - **Cabbage/Mustard**
 - **Holly**
 - **Elm**
 - **Ash**
 - **Many others**



Examples of incoming pollen (Spring photo)

- **Pollen & longer days alerts the queen to ramp up brood production**
- **Beekeepers watch for pollen going in, to be aware of the health & strength of the hive**

January in Hive: Bees & Beeks

4

Bees	Beekeeper
When cold, Bees cluster & be active to keep brood ~93° temperature	Don't chill the brood. Minimize time opening hive if below ~60°F, cloudy, windy.
Bees eat lots of honey between workouts. Colonies can starve. Cluster may have eaten its way up to the top box.	Check food supply by hefting the back of hive. If temp < 50°, feed fondant or sugar brick, which also absorbs moisture (good). If > 50° can feed 2 parts sugar to 1 part water (+vinegar). Feed small amounts (1 pint/wk) to not overdo ramp up.
Depending on weather & pollen, Queens start laying in Jan.	Can feed pollen, but might not be used & may attract pests. Take care to not push early ramp up in eggs.
Winter bees are dying off	Don't be surprised to see a few dozen dead bees. If colony is too weak (<2 frames of bees), combine
On warm days, may go for water or pollen. Cleansing flights.	Watch for activity on warm days, to judge colony health
Mites survive winter with bees	If mite load high, treatments very effective, low brood
Potential for dysentery or Nosema	Watch for signs. Maintain good strength & nutrition.
Few guard bees; potential for pests	Keep entrance very small
Bees give Beekeepers "free time" in Winter.	Order bees/queens for Spring. Maintain/replace equipment. Join local bee club. Invite friends to join.

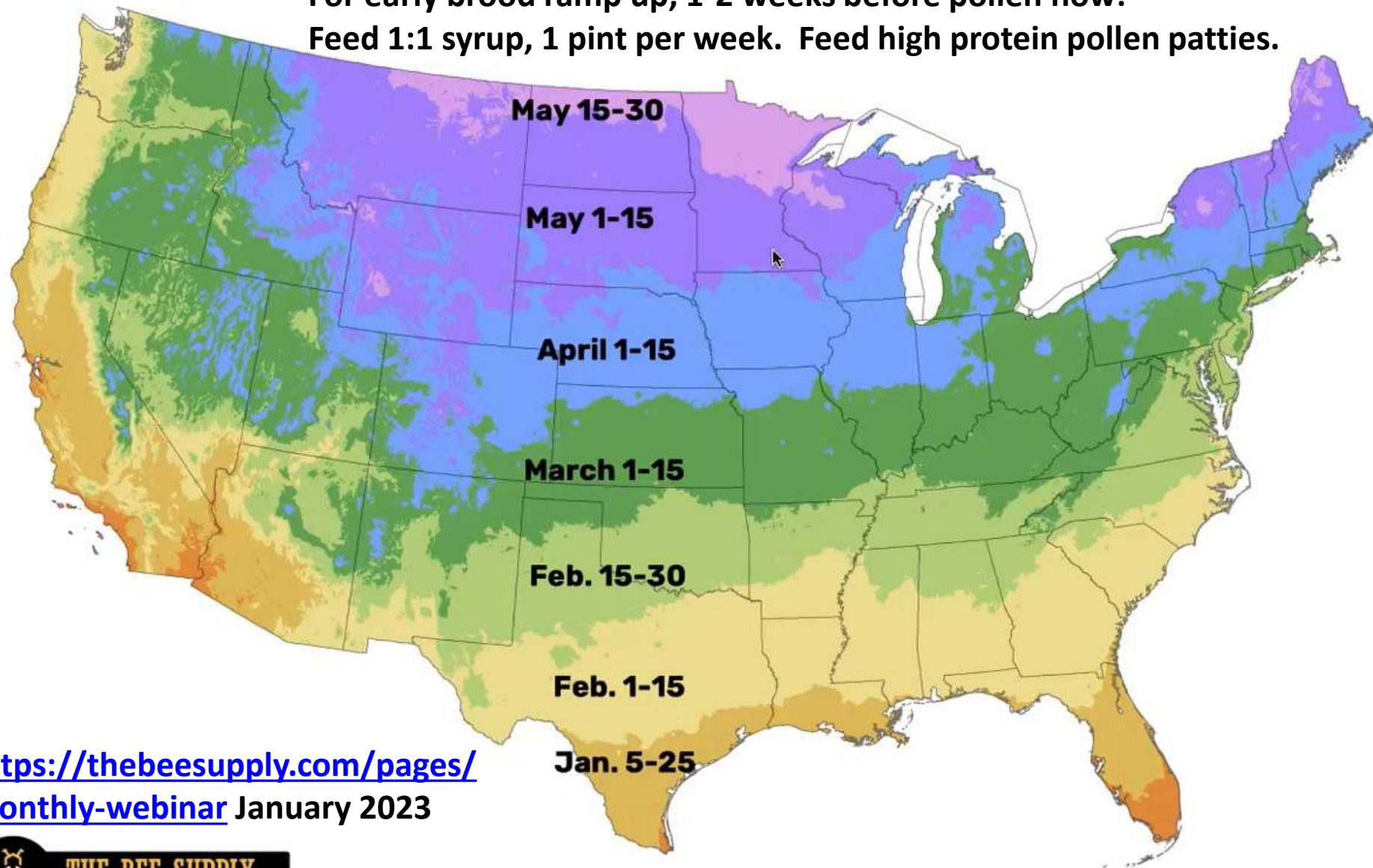
• **All year: Queenright, Nutrition, Pests & Diseases**



Significant Pollen Flow Start Dates

For early brood ramp up, 1-2 weeks before pollen flow:

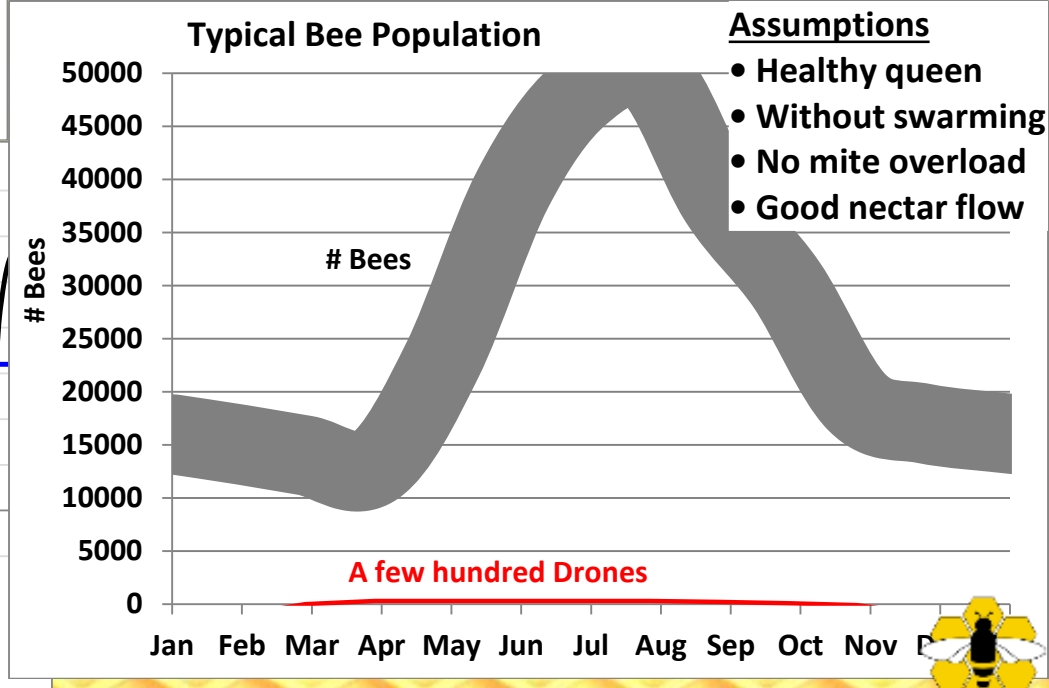
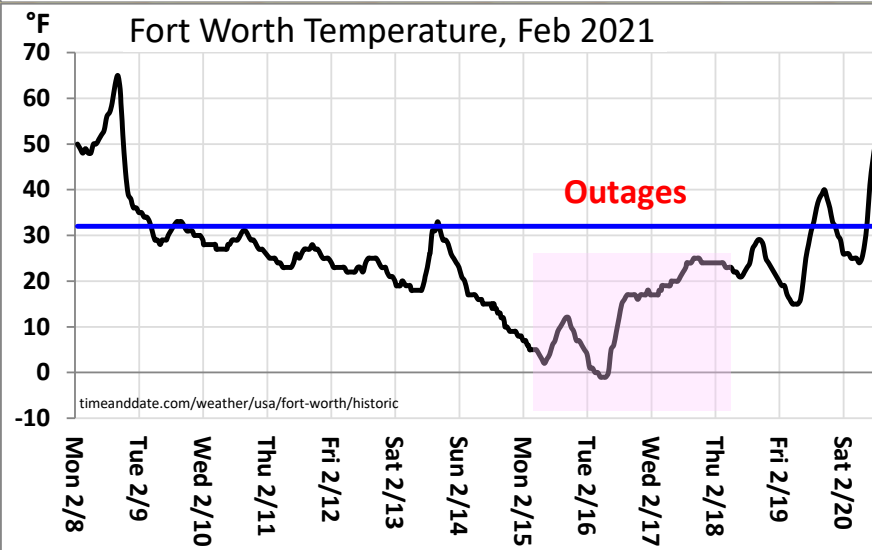
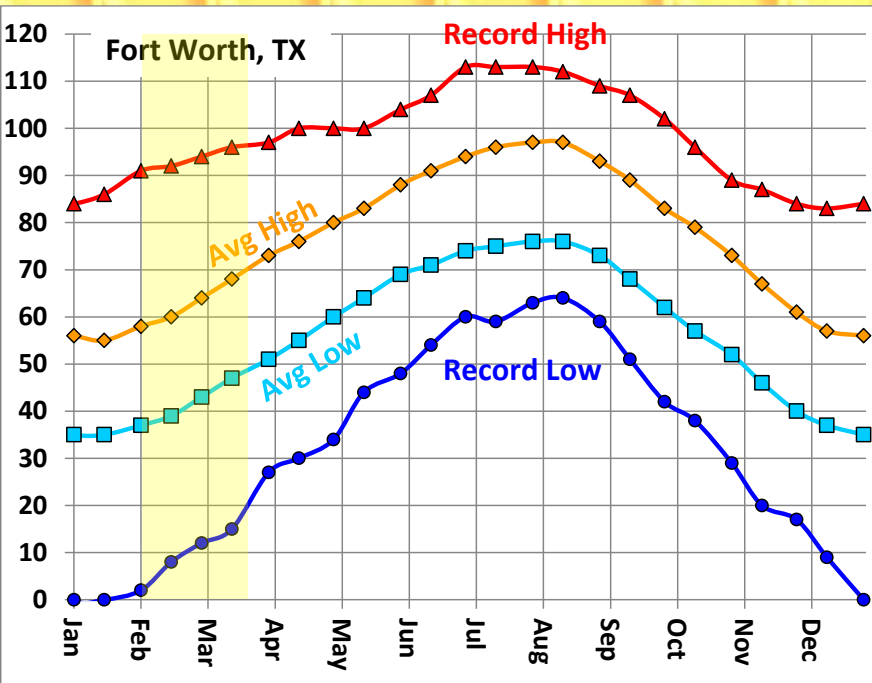
Feed 1:1 syrup, 1 pint per week. Feed high protein pollen patties.



<https://thebeesupply.com/pages/monthly-webinar> January 2023

February in the Hive: Weather

- **Temperatures between 0° & 95°**
- **If ice & snow, clear entrances for ventilation**



February in Hive: Bees & Beeks ⁷

Bees	Beekeeper
Colony is launching a new year. Pollen alerts queen to ramp up.	Inspect on a warm day. Check for queen, syrup, pollen, pests. Test for Varroa.
When cold, bees cluster & are active to keep brood ~93° F	Don't chill the brood. Minimize opening below ~60°F. If long very cold wave, consider wind breaks, insulation.
Maximum chance of starvation. They can't forage below ~50° F. Feb 2021 had 14 days below 50° F. If hive runs out of stores, they stop rearing brood, & eat existing brood.	Check food supply at least every 2 weeks (heft or visual). If low on honey/nectar, feed (syrup, brick, fondant). 1:1 syrup stimulates raising brood & building wax comb. If low on pollen (or long cold forecast), add pollen patty. When it's warm again, remove remaining patty.
Varroa mite levels increase with brood	If more than 2 mites per 100 bees, implement Varroa controls. If treat, be finished before adding honey supers.
Bees may be in top box, above empty box	Consider reversing boxes, but don't divide the brood
Strong hives may fill >80% of space	Add a box to reduce swarming pressure. Prep for split.
Potential for pests & robbers	Keep entrance small, appropriate for activity level
Prepare for Spring	Order bees, queens, equipment for Spring. Maintain/replace equipment.

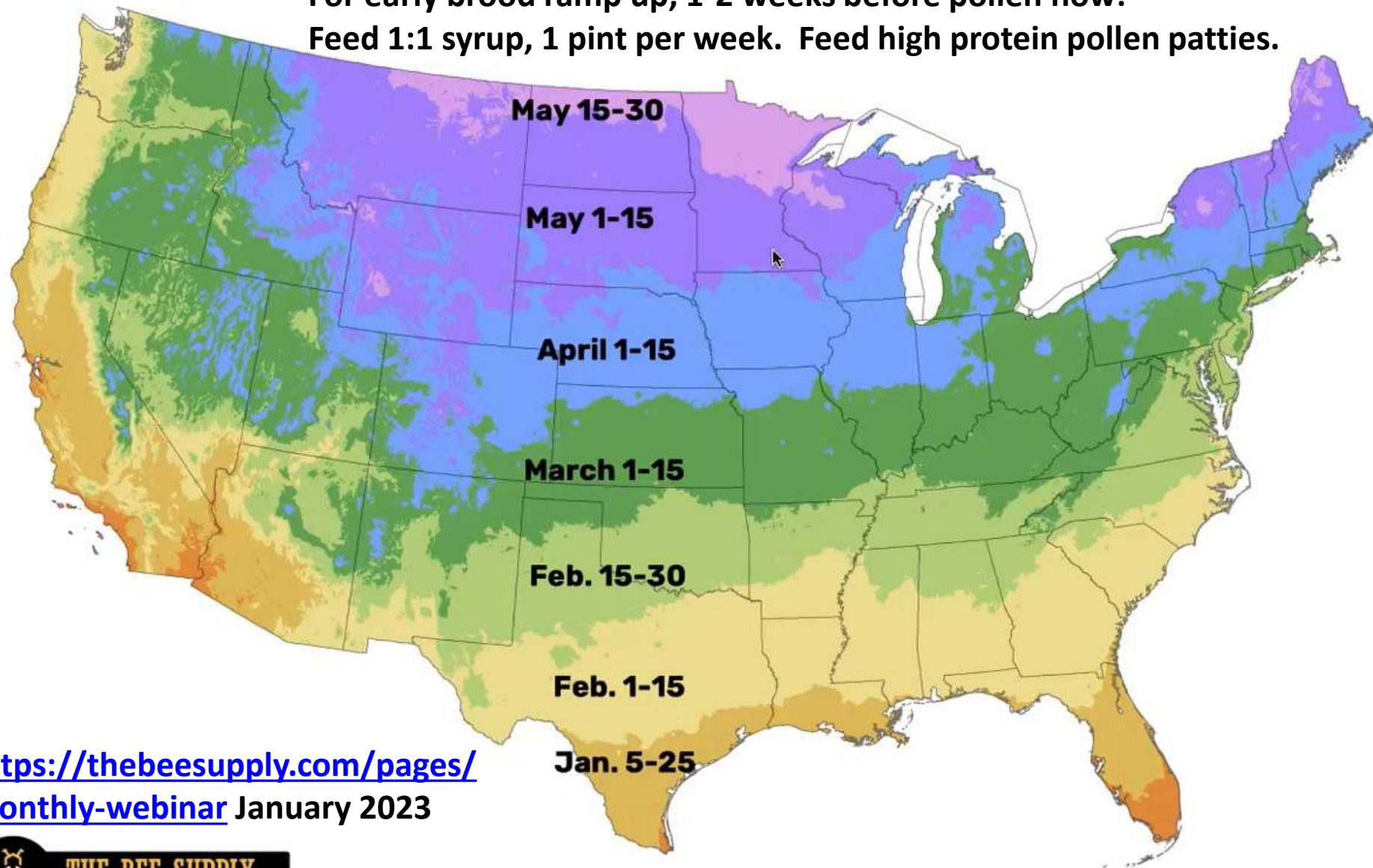
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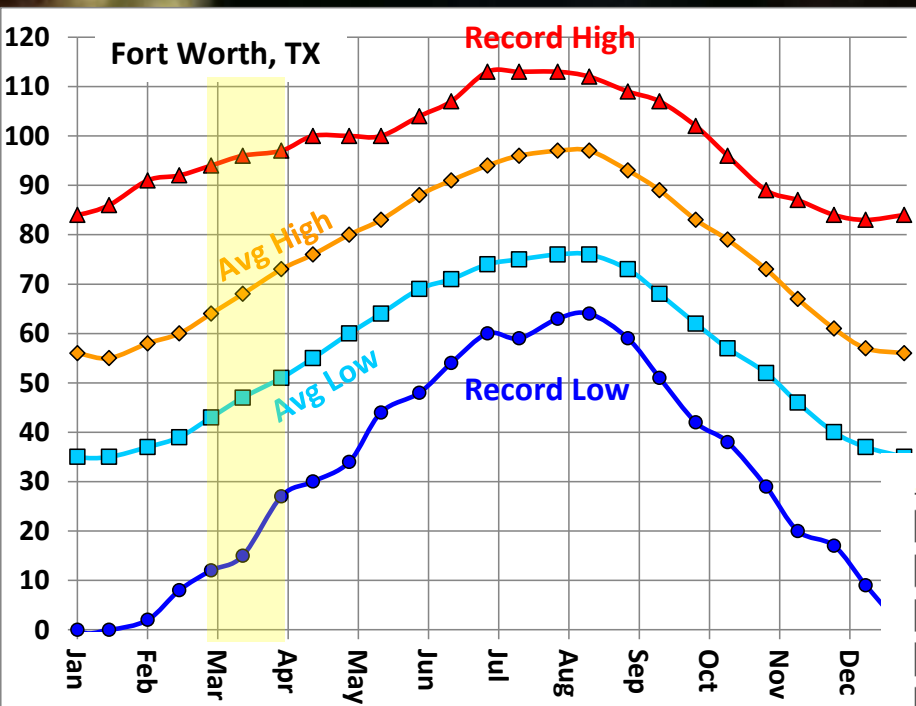
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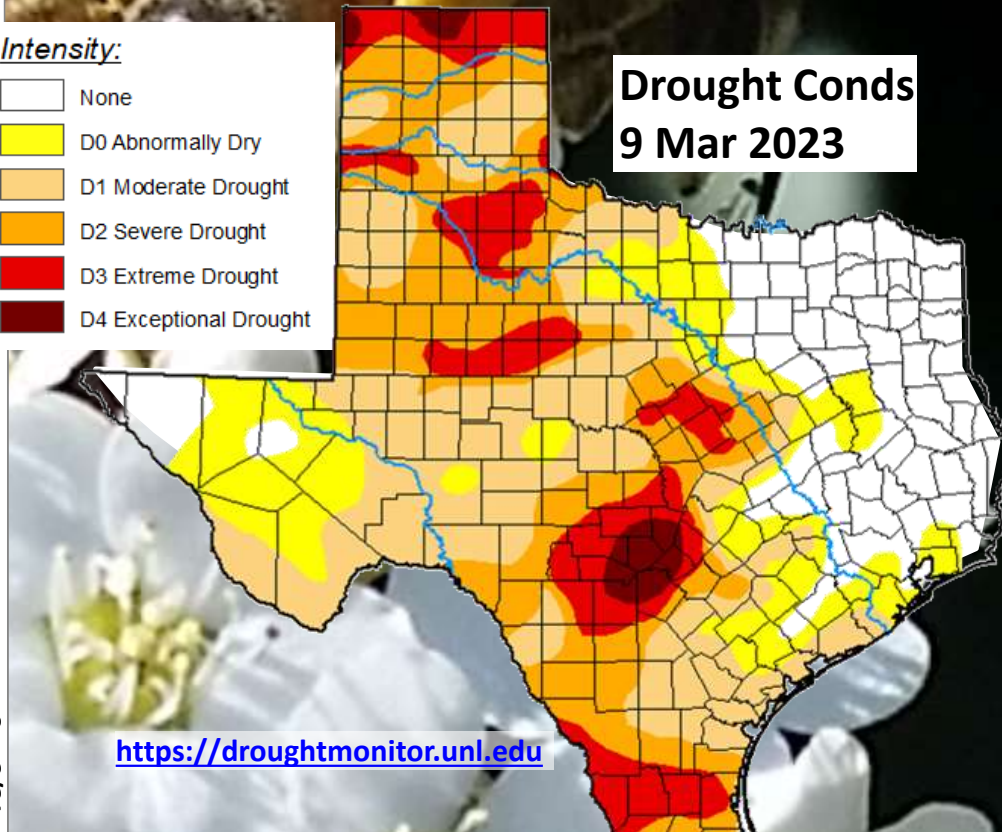
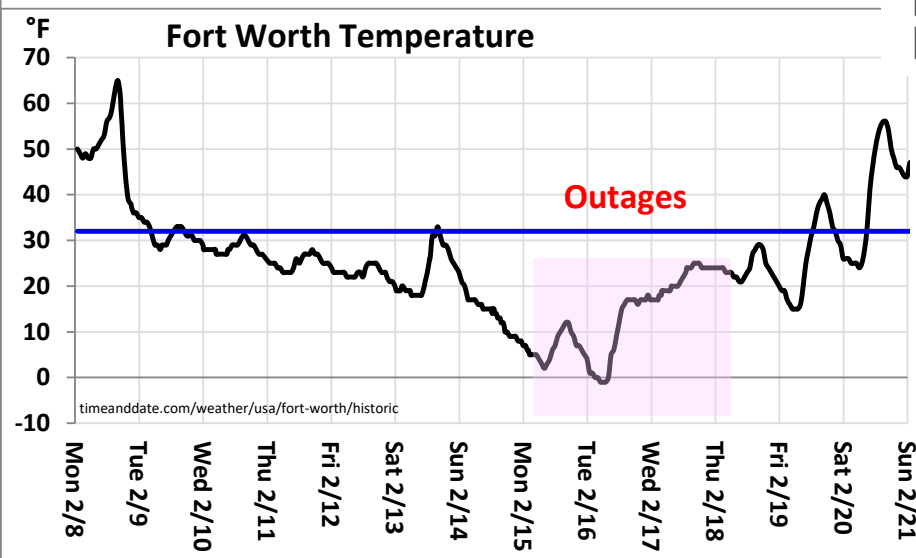


March in the Hive: Weather



Weather

- Temperatures between 15° & 95°
- Last freeze can be mid-April
- Many plants blooming, normally
- Hard freeze can harm budding plants





March in Hive: Bees & Beeks

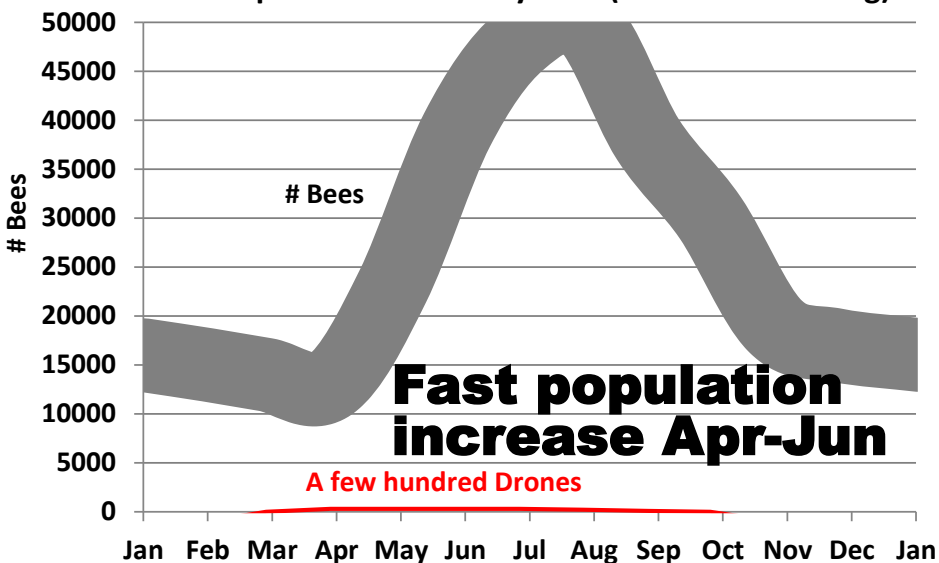
Bees	Beekeeper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brood production increases with pollen, up to 2000 eggs/day• Queen is starting a new year!• Bees know if she is productive.• Bees build queen cells (if eggs), if failing queen or prep to swarm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspect (queen, food, pests). Don't chill brood.• Is queen productive? Capped brood, larva, eggs, # of bees.• Replace queen if needed. Or let bees replace her.• Remove queen cells only if you have a queen.• When top box 75% full, reduce swarming by adding a box (air-out 1st?), rotate boxes (don't divide brood), or split.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still feeding on stored honey & pollen, esp on cold days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Several frames honey? If not, feed 1:1 syrup.• Inside feeders don't invite robbing like front feeders do.• If cold stretch, consider feeding pollen substitute.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More bees are eating.• More food is coming in.• Honey storage starts w/ nectar flow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeding can increase brood buildup, where needed.• Feeding can increase swarming pressure.• Add honey supers when needed. Don't feed w/ supers.• Checkerboard honey to reduce swarming pressure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building comb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spray sugar water on empty frames. Delay excluder.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varroa mite levels increasing.• Strong hives begin rearing drones.• Varroa love drone brood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep colony strong. Monitor for Varroa.• Implement your Integrated Pest Management plan.• Follow treatment instructions; it's the law & for safety.• Can switch to screened bottom boards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential for robbing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain entrance for activity level & temperature.

• Queenright, Nutrition, Pests, Diseases, Housing

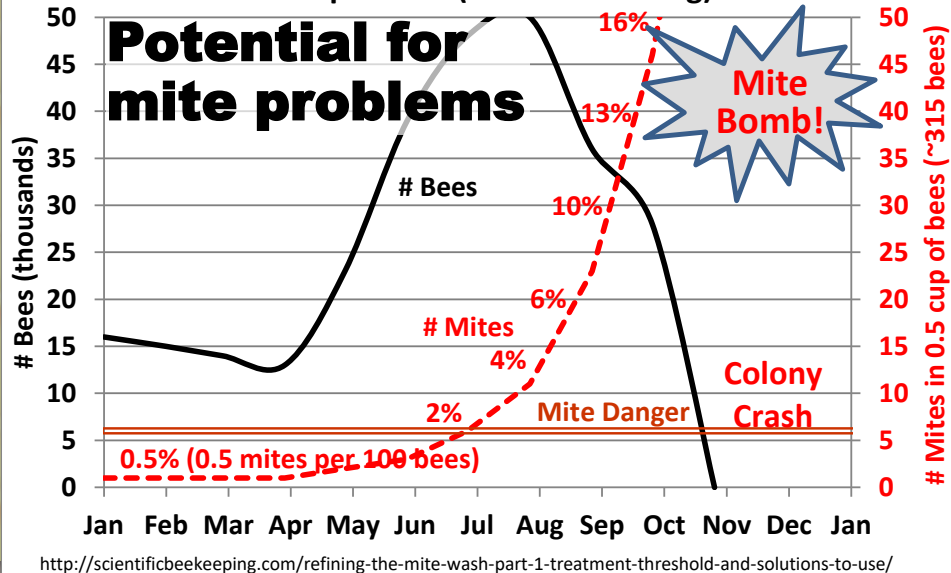


Bee Population by Month

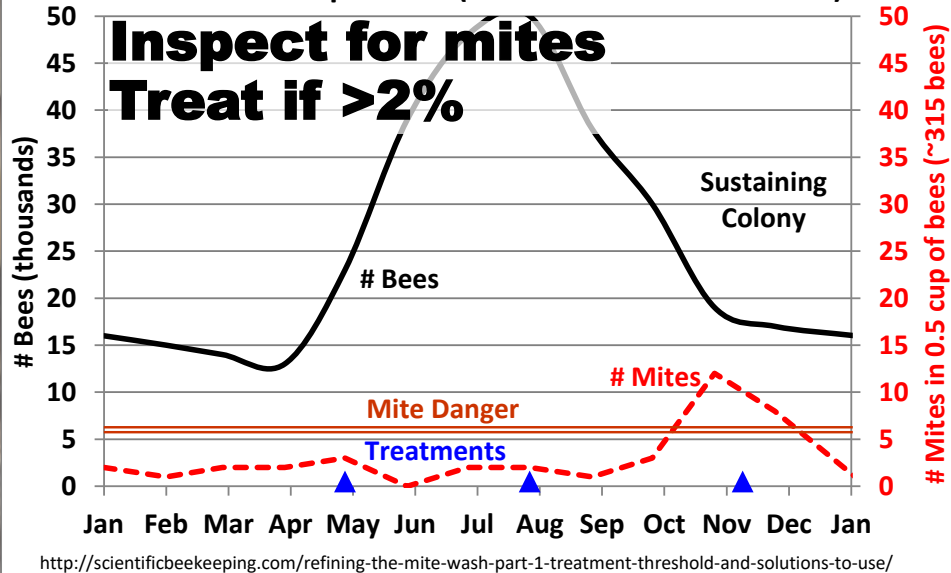
Bee Population in Healthy Hive (without swarming)



Bee & Mite Population (without treating)



Bee & Mite Population (with effective treatments)



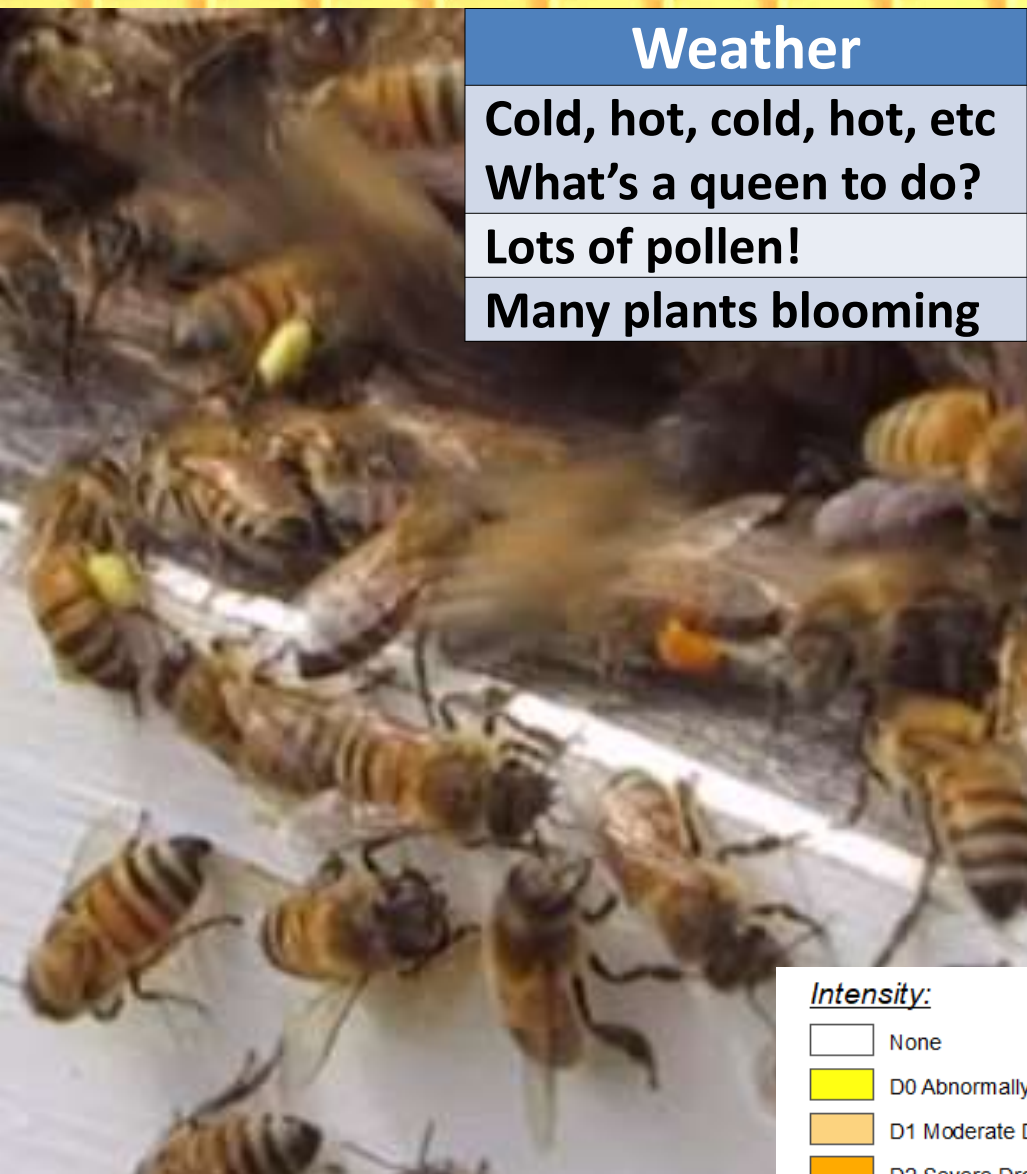
Mite Testing?

- **Before varroa (1986), losses 10% to 15%/yr**
- **Now 30% to 50% of colonies are lost/yr**
- **Mites feed on bees & spread viruses**
- **40% of hobby beekeepers don't test for mites**
- **Do you want to know?**



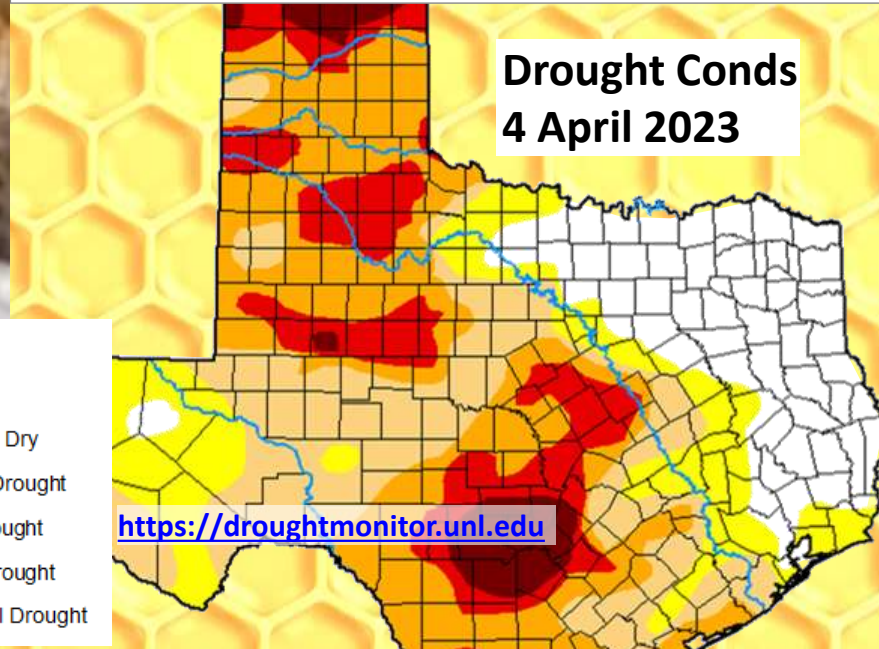
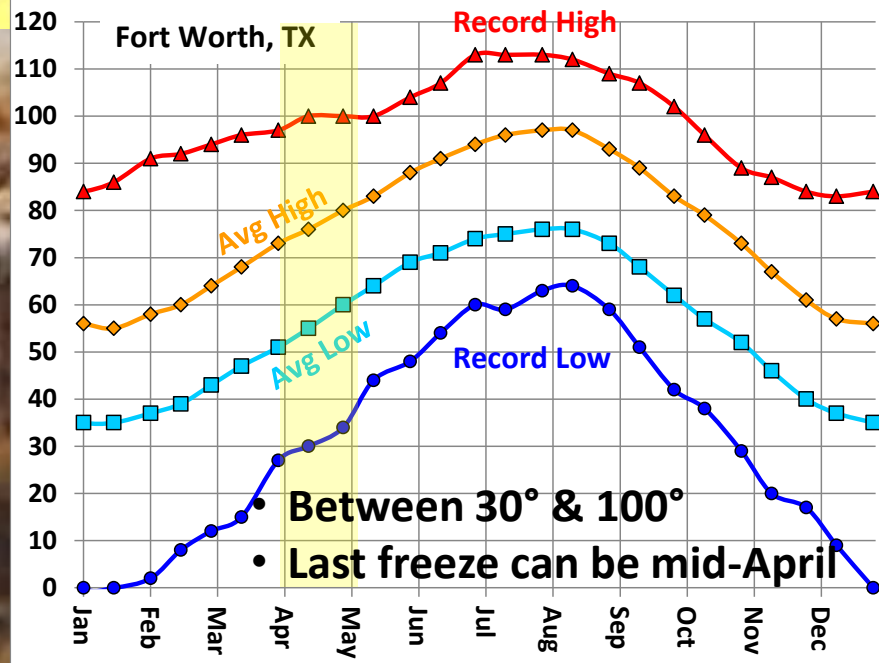


April in the Hive: Weather



Weather

Cold, hot, cold, hot, etc
 What's a queen to do?
 Lots of pollen!
 Many plants blooming



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought



April in Hive: Bees & Beeks

Bees	Beekeeper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brood production booming with pollen, up to 2000 eggs/day• Bees know if queen is productive.• If queen failing or prep to swarm, bees build queen cells (if eggs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspect (queen, food, pests, disease, housing)• Don't chill brood• Is queen productive? Capped brood, larva, eggs, # of bees.• Replace queen if needed. Or let bees replace her• Remove queen cells only if you have a queen
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On cold days (weeks), still eating stored honey & pollen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Several frames honey? If not, feed 1:1 syrup.• Inside feeders don't invite robbing like front feeders do• If cold week & low on pollen stores, consider supplement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More bees are eating• More food is coming in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeding can increase brood buildup, where needed• Over-feeding can increase swarming pressure
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong hives ready to swarm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add box when 75% full, (air-out 1st)• Rotate boxes (don't divide brood)• Checkerboard honey to reduce swarming pressure• Split the colony
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varroa mite levels increasing• Strong hives begin rearing drones• Varroa love drone brood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep colony strong. Monitor for Varroa.• Implement your Integrated Pest Management plan• Follow treatment instructions; it's the law & for safety• Can switch to screened bottom boards• Think ahead about honey supers, limits treatments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential for robbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain entrance for activity level & temperature.



If You Have a New Colony

- **A new colony includes Nucs, Packages, Captured Swarm, New Queen, Splits**
- **Feed 1:1 syrup for at least 3 weeks, which strengthens the hive & makes it a place they want to stay**
- **If you do a split (or any new colony), give each colony at least 3 frames of brood, & 3 frames of honey & pollen, if available**
- **Confirm that the queen is laying eggs**
- **Add another box when the 1st box is 75% full of bees, or they will want to swarm**
- **If you have a captured swarm, you could use a queen excluder for a couple weeks**



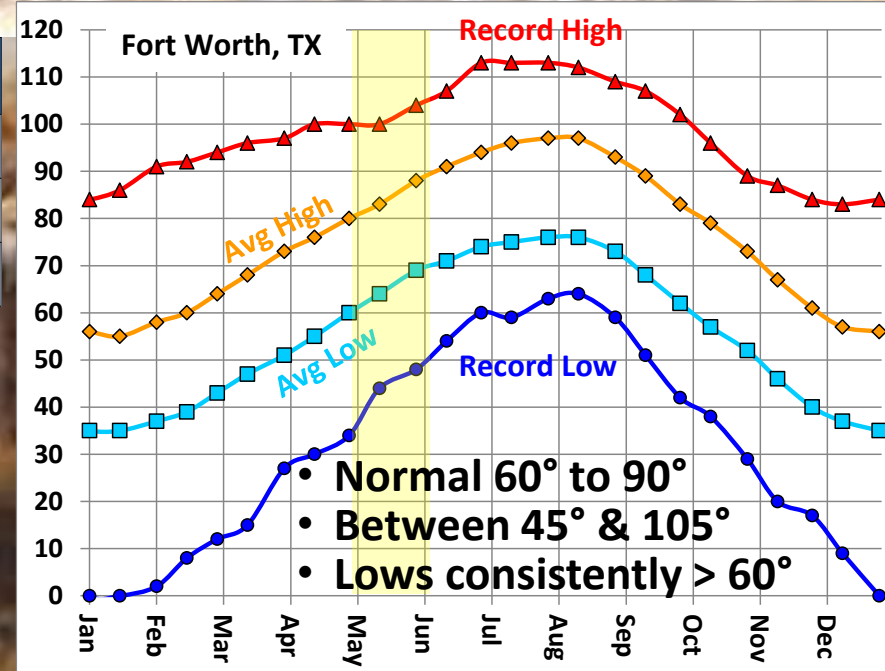
May Weather

Weather

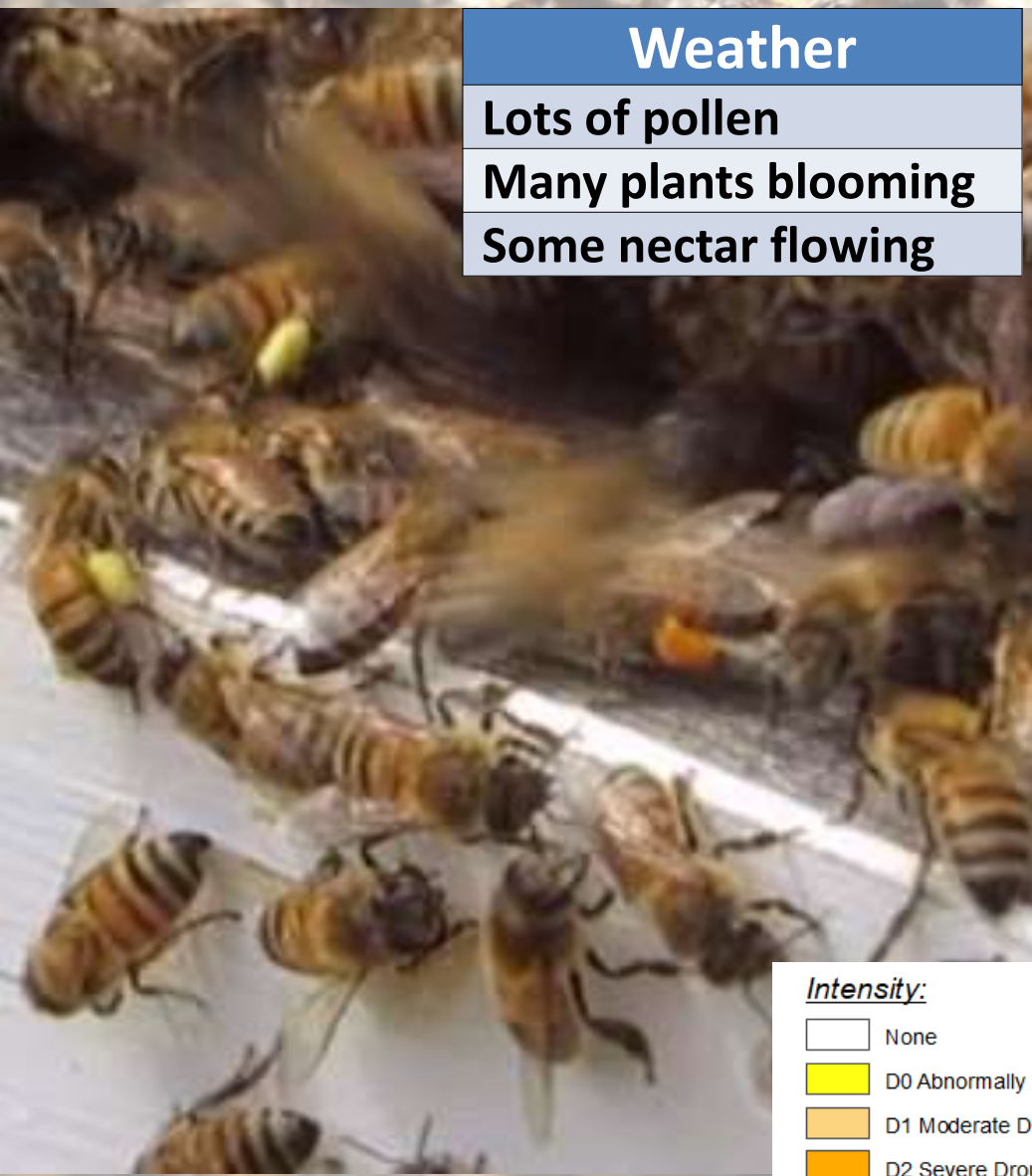
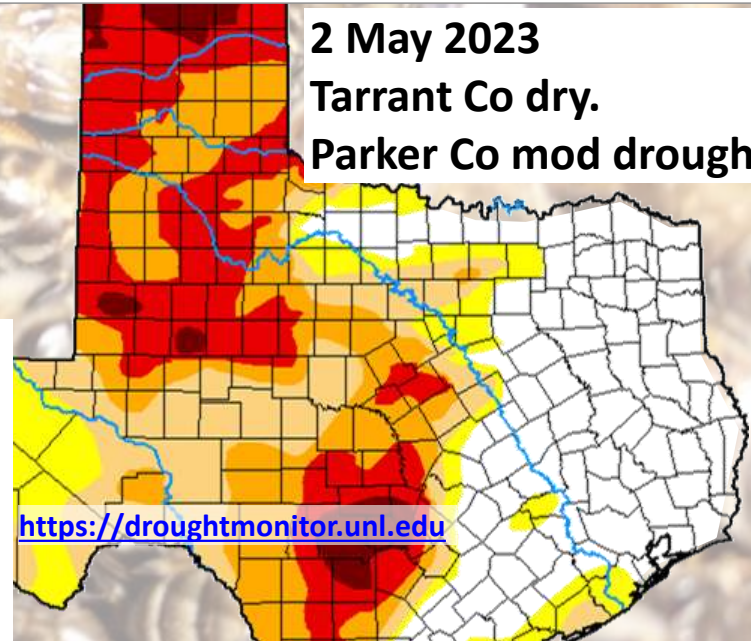
Lots of pollen

Many plants blooming

Some nectar flowing

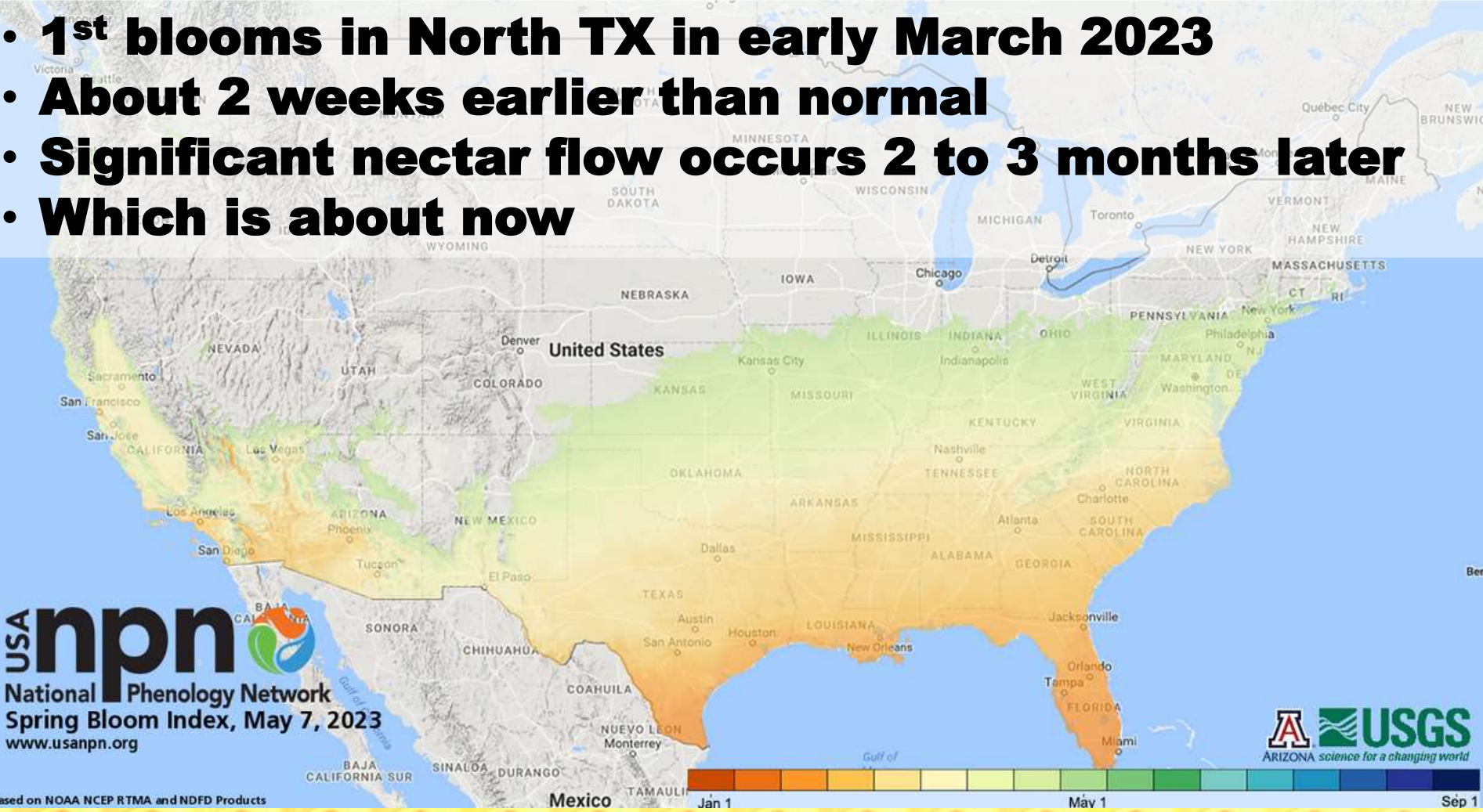


2 May 2023
Tarrant Co dry.
Parker Co mod drought.



Spring Bloom 2023

- **1st blooms in North TX in early March 2023**
- **About 2 weeks earlier than normal**
- **Significant nectar flow occurs 2 to 3 months later**
- **Which is about now**



- **www.usanpn.org shows when plants leaf & bloom**
- **And compares to average**



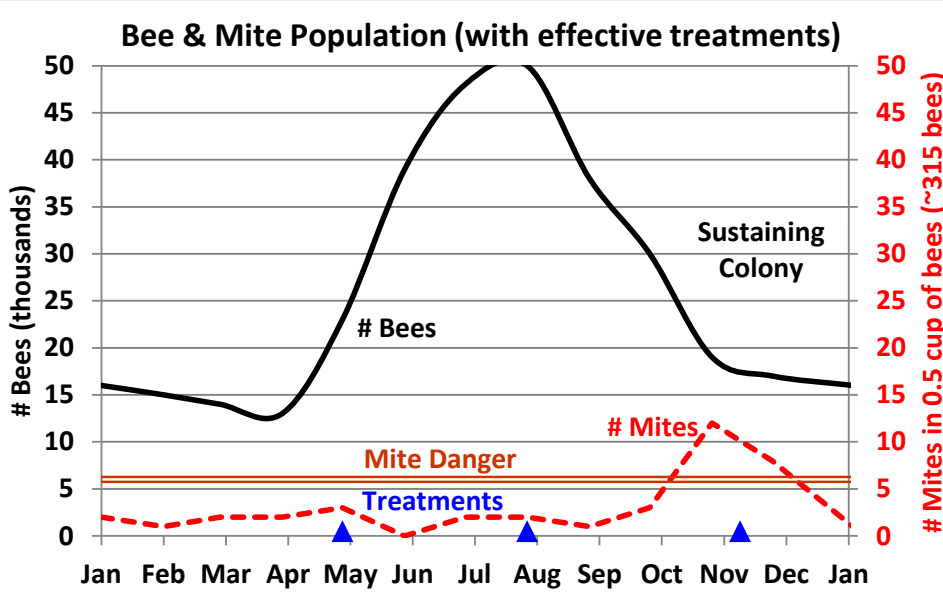
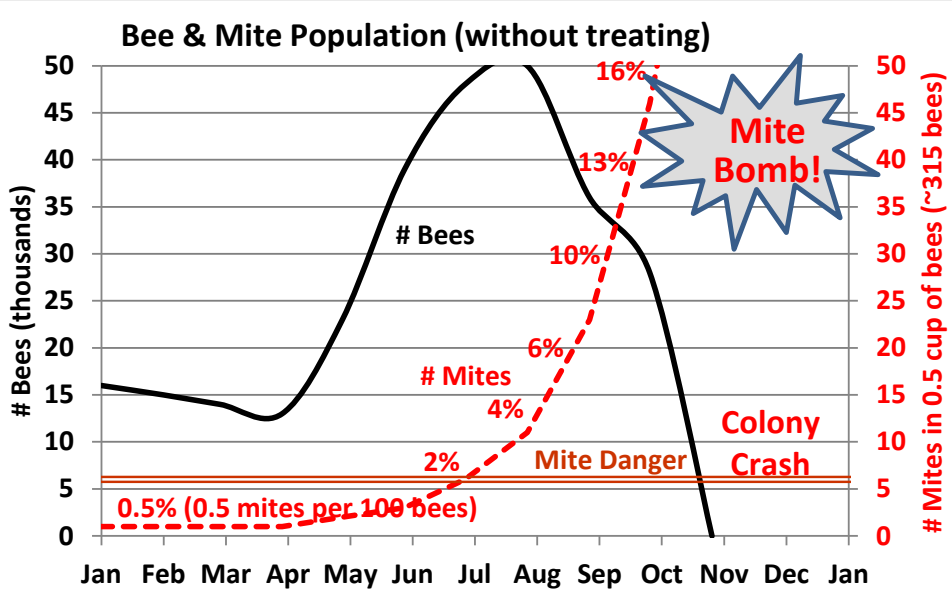
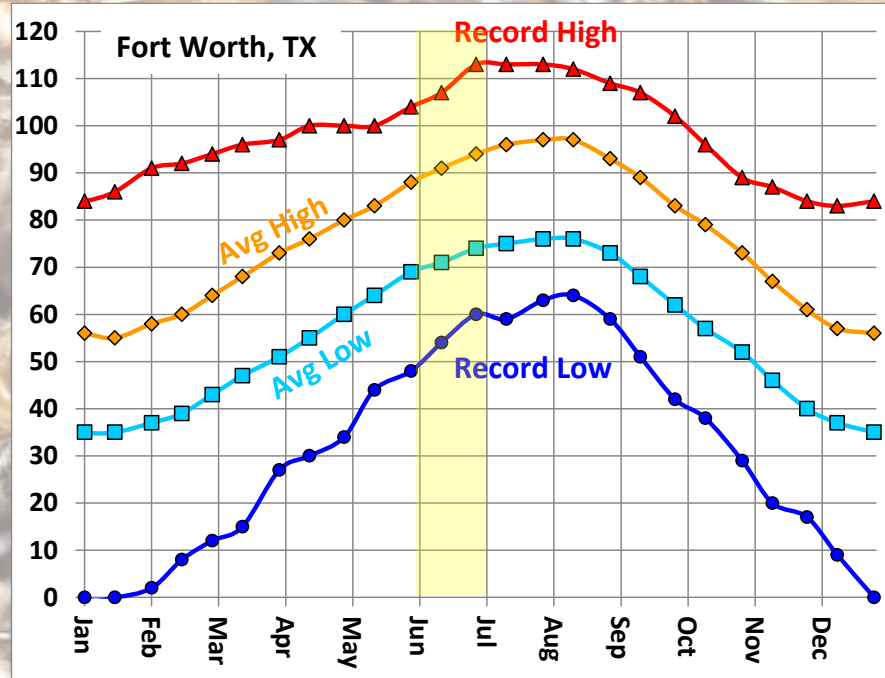
May in Hive: Bees & Beeks

Bees	Beekeeper																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New colonies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed 1:1 (1 part water, 1 part sugar), all they take 																						
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant honey storage, if good nectar flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If low on wax comb, feed bees until they build comb • Prime foundation with wax to encourage drawing comb • No queen excluder until ~6" comb drawn on 4+ frames • Add honey supers when boxes are ~70% full. 																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varroa mite levels increasing • More than 3 mites per 100 bees is a concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep colony strong. Monitor for Varroa. Implement IPM. • Think ahead about honey supers, limits treatments • Mechanical steps during honey flow: drone brood frame removal, screened bottom board, powdered sugar dusting 																						
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's hot, lots of bees, bearding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bearding is normal. Provide ventilation. Not full shade. 																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for robbing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain entrance for activity level & temperature. 																						



June in the Hive

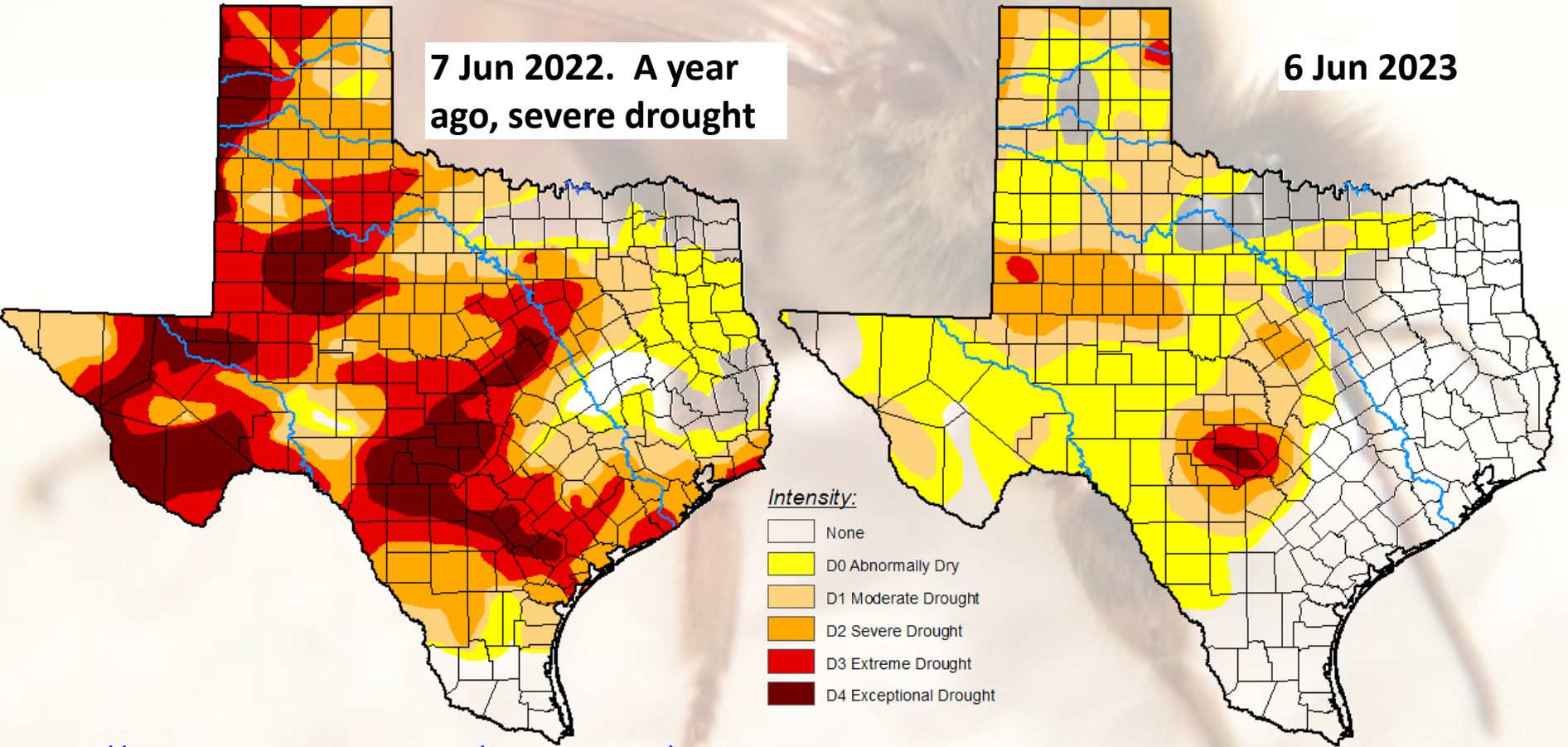
- **Temp, Avg 70° to 95°**
– Record 50° to 110°F
- **Nectar flow continues another week or two**
- **Bee growth slows if temp > ~90° &/or less rainfall**
- **Mite count likely growing if not treated**



Drought Conditions Improved

- **Make sure bees have water**
- **New colonies need nectar or syrup sub**
- **Consider feeding after harvest, to build winter stores**

Tarrant County Moderate Drought





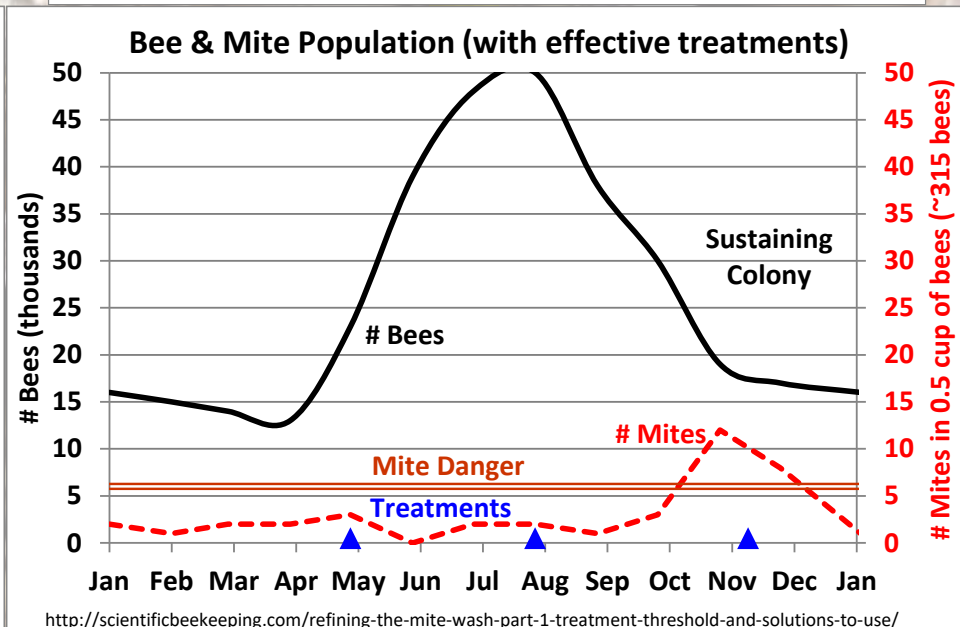
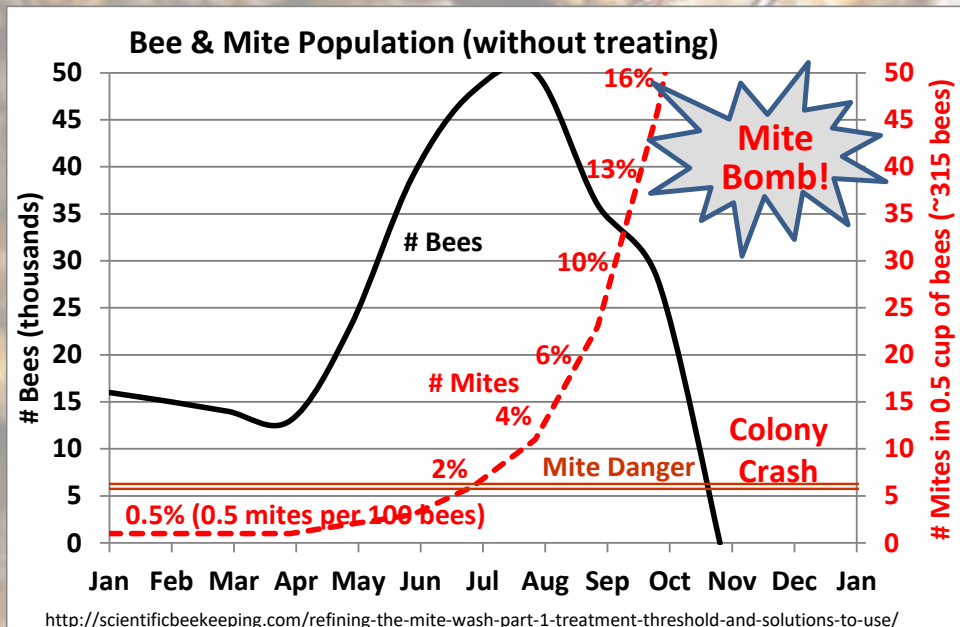
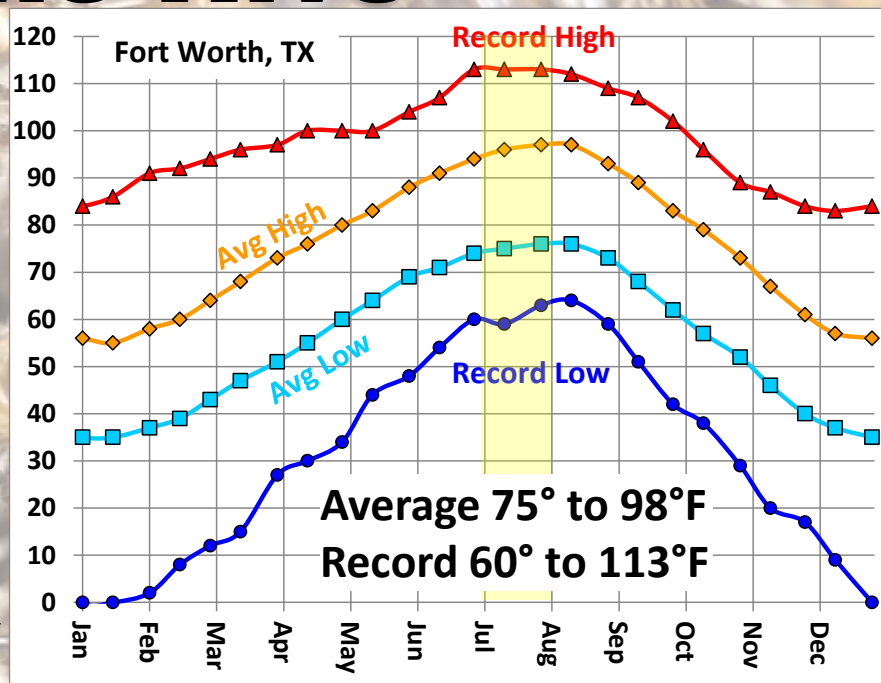
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Orig box	H	E	H	E	H	E	H	E	H	E													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant honey storage, if good nectar flow, usually May thru June • After nectar flow, bees eat honey, so supply goes down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If low on wax comb, feed bees until they build comb • Prime foundation with wax to encourage drawing comb • No queen excluder until ~6" comb drawn on 4+ frames • Add honey supers when boxes are ~70% full 																						
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bees beard to control heat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bearding is normal. Provide ventilation. Not full shade. 																						
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July in the Hive

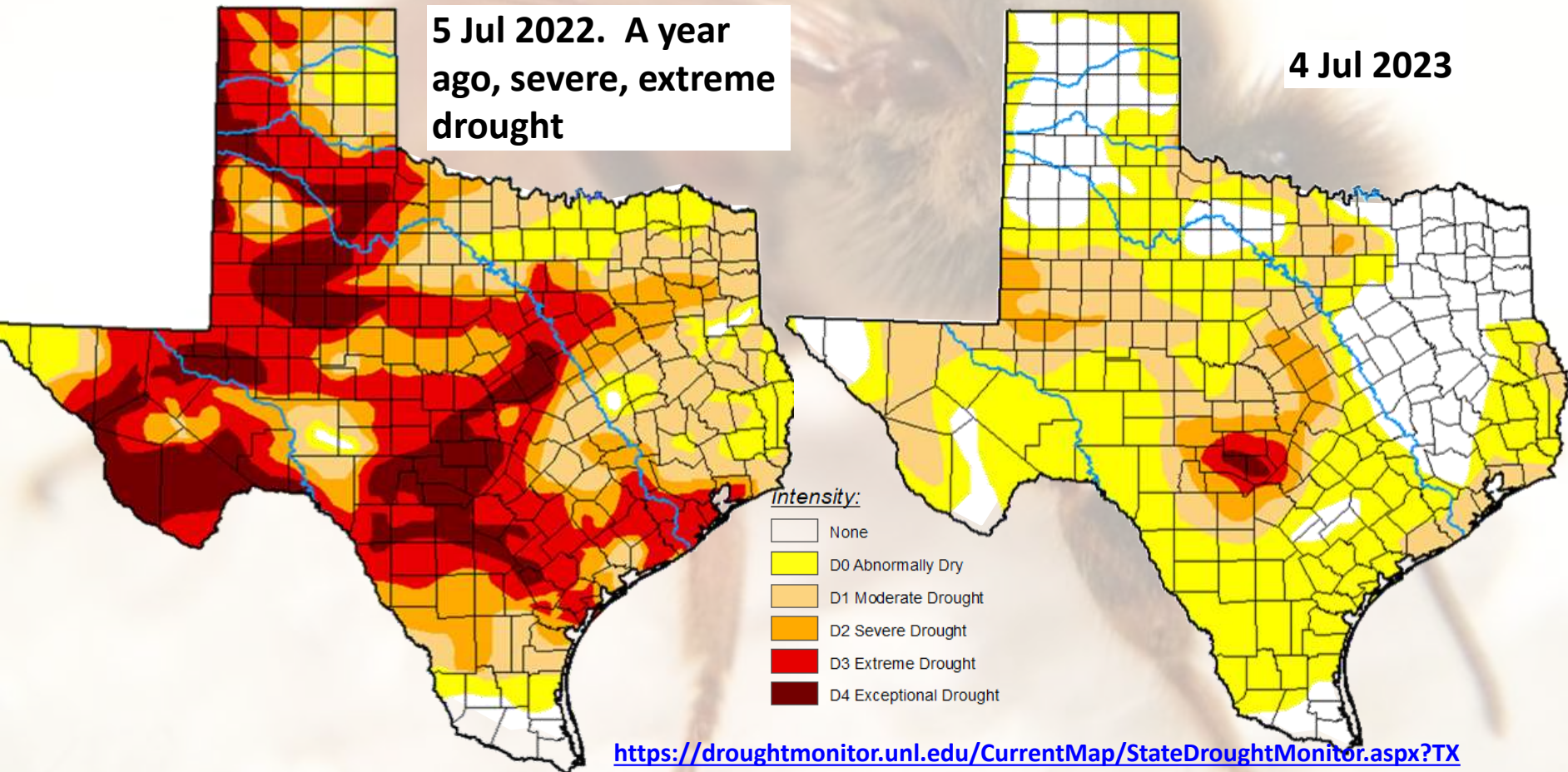
- Hot & dry
- Nectar flow May thru June
- Bee growth slows
- Mite count likely growing
- July may be the most important month to check for varroa
- Help bees survive winter



Drought Conditions

- **Make sure bees have water**
- **New colonies need nectar or syrup sub**
- **Feed after final harvest, to build winter stores**

Tarrant County Moderate Drought





July in Hive: Bees & Beeks

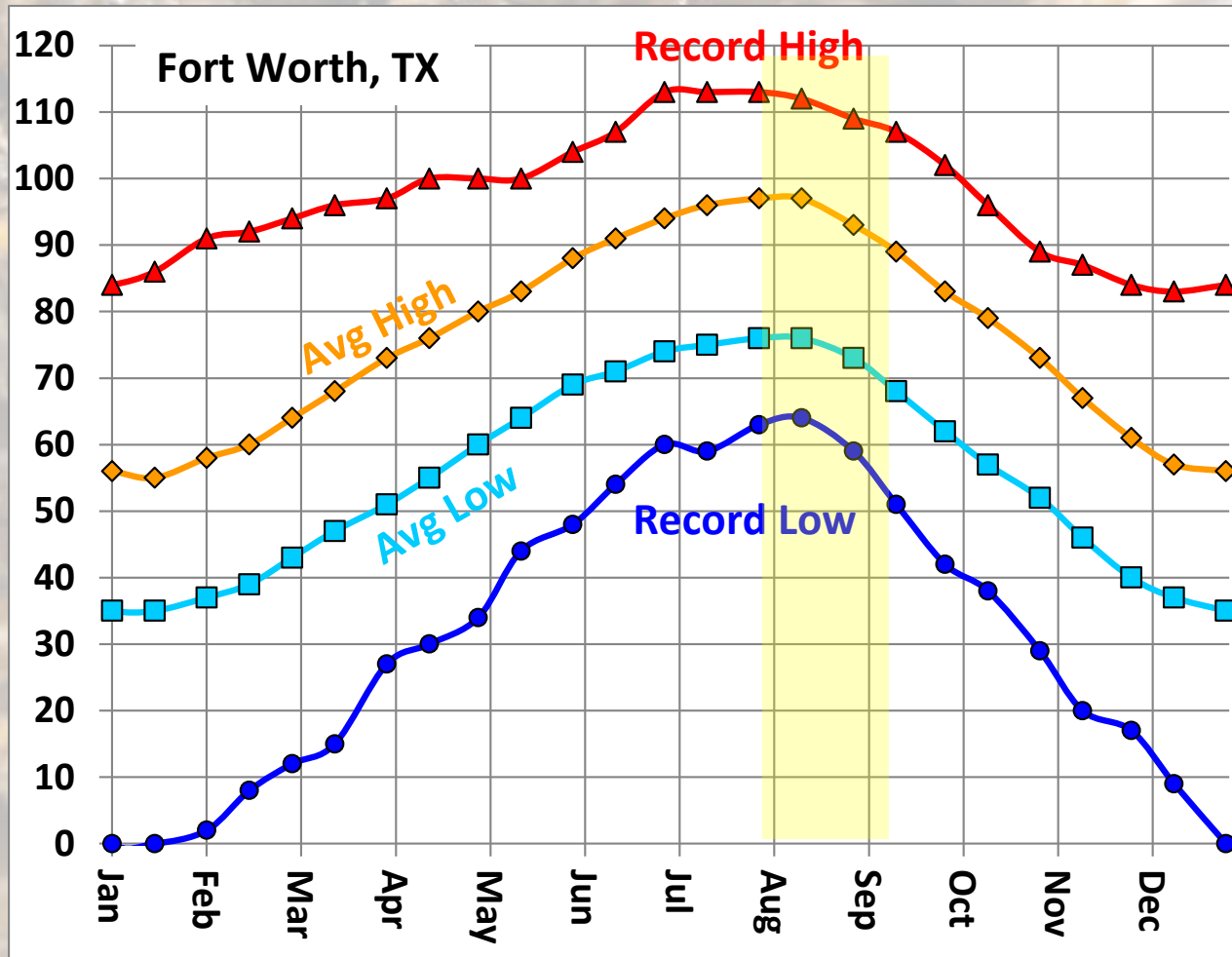
Bees	Beekeeper
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOT & DRY! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure bees have reliable water supply. • If excessive bearding, consider adding ventilation &/or shading hives in full sun in peak temps.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brood production past peak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower brood might not indicate problem with queen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not bringing in nectar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest honey after nectar flow. If delay, bees eat honey. • After harvest, put supers back on for 24 hrs & bees will clean comb, & limit entrance to prevent robbing. • After harvest, freeze frames for 3 days, store with PDB. • Can open store frames outside, watch for wax moths & pests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bees preparing for winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed after honey harvest. Build to 30 lbs honey before Oct. • Feeding builds comb now, instead of in nectar flow.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varroa mite levels increasing • 3+ mites per 100 bees is threat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep colony strong. Monitor for Varroa. Implement IPM. • Think ahead: honey supers & temperature limit treatments • Drone brood removal, screen bottom board, powdered sugar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong hives may swarm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add box when frames are 70% full (brood, honey, nectar) • Rotate boxes (don't divide brood), esp if lower box empty • Checkerboard honey. Don't checkerboard brood. • Split the colony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease? Larvae should be white, curved, glistening wet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address if larvae are dark, chalky, distorted, or dry • Address if brood caps sunken, perforated, spotty

Queenright, Nutrition, Pests, Diseases, Housing



August in the Hive: Weather

- **Temperature: Record low of 65° to high of 112°F**
- **We are passing the peak temperature (statistically)**
- **Beehives in full sun may need ventilation &/or shade**



- **Nectar flow was May thru June-ish**
- **Another nectar flow in late Aug, early Sep (we hope)**

Drought Conditions

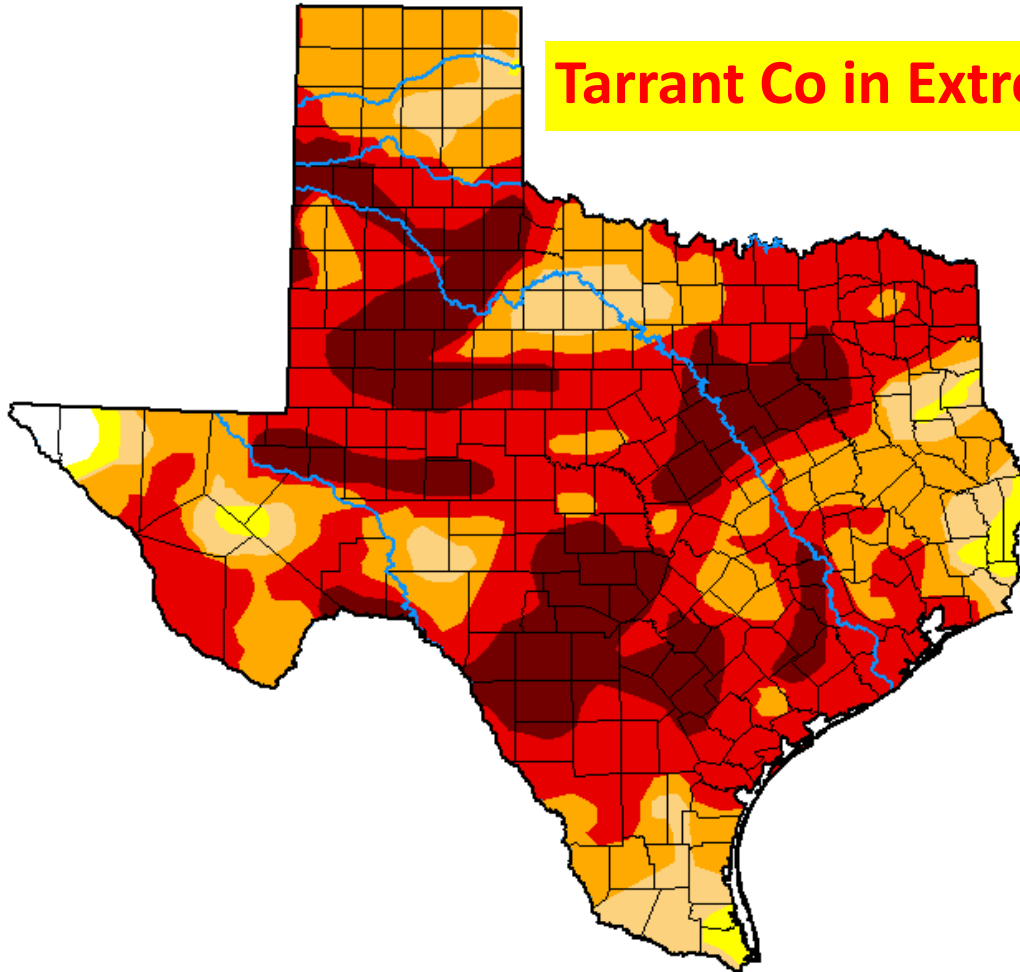
**Make sure bees have water.
Mosquito dunks are safe for bees.
Consider ventilation & shade when very hot.**

August 2, 2022

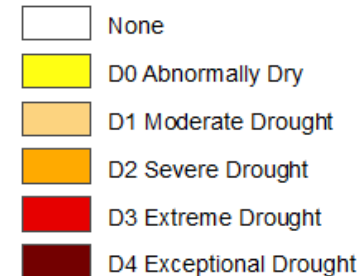
(Released Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Tarrant Co in Extreme to Exceptional Drought



Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

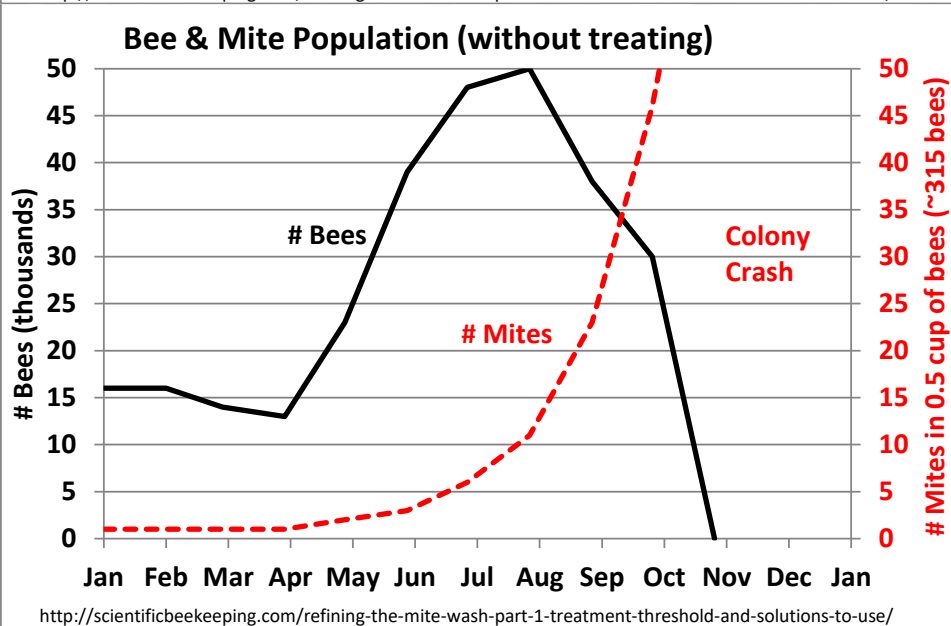
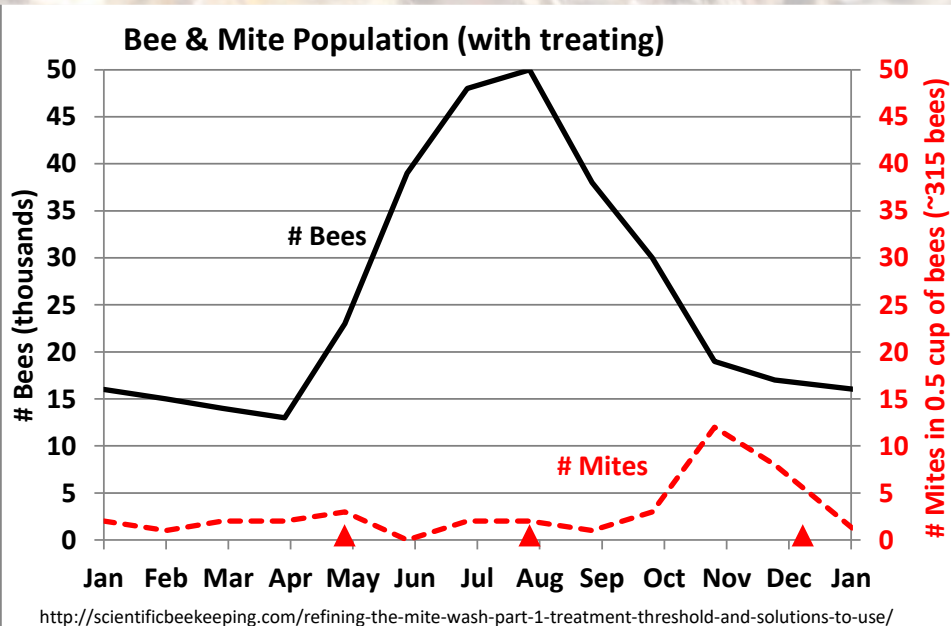
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?TX>



August in the Hive: Population

27

- **Bees population likely past the peak**
- **Mite population can still be increasing**
- **Important to check for Varroa**
 - **Sticky board**
 - **Alcohol wash**
 - **Sugar roll**
- **Act if more than 3 mites per 100 bees (9 mites in half cup)**



August in Hive: Bees & Beeks

Bees	Beekeeper
<p>Brood production likely past peak</p>	<p>Inspect regularly (queen, food, pests). Still need good brood patterns, or investigate problems.</p>
<p>HOT & DRY!</p>	<p>Make sure bees have reliable water supply. Signs of being too hot: excessive bearding, bees not working Options to lower temperature in hive: Shade hives, add ventilation, &/or, add empty box on top Work bees early morning. Avoid overheating. Ventilated suits.</p>
<p>Not bringing in nectar. Bees are preparing for winter now.</p>	<p>Feed to build 30 lbs honey storage before Oct. 1 med frame of honey both sides is ~3 lbs. 1 deep frame of honey both sides is ~4 lbs. Trickle feed helps avoid too fast growth, not sustainable. Feeding can build comb now, instead of during nectar flow.</p>
<p>Likely low on pollen</p>	<p>If less than a half frame of pollen, add pollen sub to strengthen winter bees. How do we know if they are low on pollen?</p>
<p>Varroa mite levels at/near peak</p>	<p>Monitor for Varroa. Keep colony strong. Implement your Integrated Pest Management plan. Some treatments are limited with supers or high temps.</p>

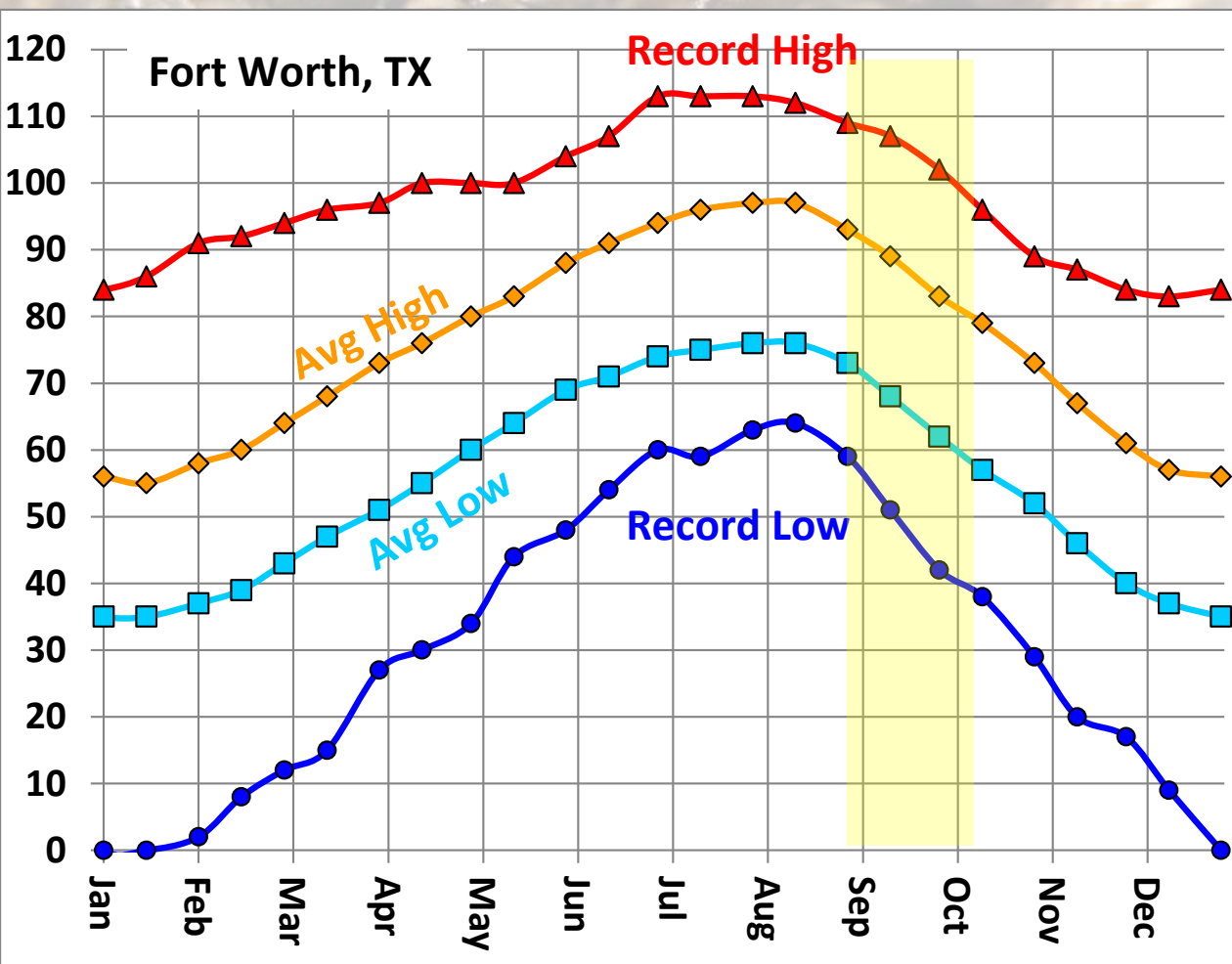
Queenright, Nutrition, Pests, Diseases, Housing





September in the Hive: Weather

- **Temperature: Record low of 40° to high of 108°F**
- **We survived the peak temperatures**
- **Can still be very hot, or can be too cold to forage**

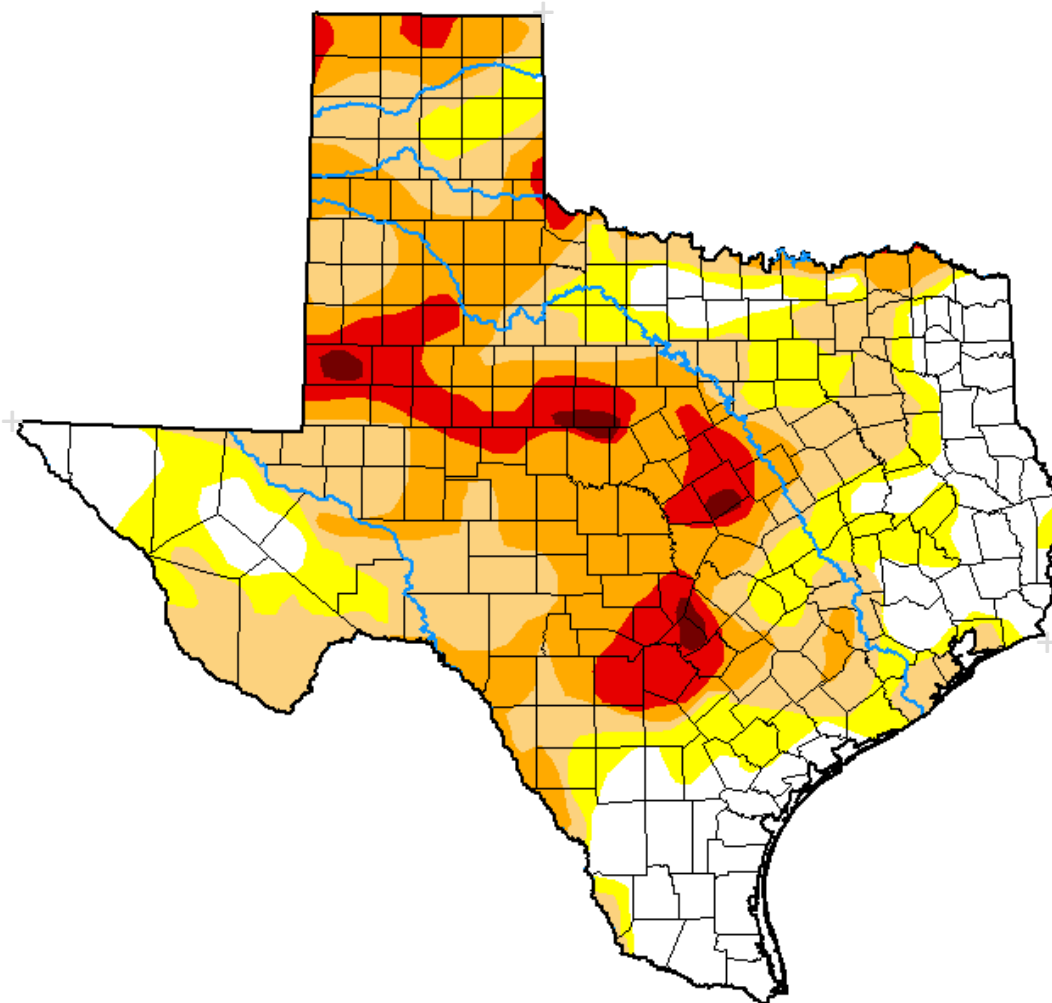


- **Plants came alive after rain of Aug 22nd**
- **Did you see lots more brood?**
- **How much pollen is going into your hives?**
- **Is the pollen nearly all one or 2 colors?**

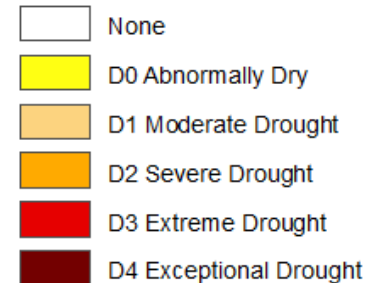
Drought Conditions

**Tarrant Co three levels better after Aug 22nd!
Mosquito dunks are safe for bees & environ.**

September 6, 2022
(Released Thursday, Sep. 8, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:



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Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?TX>

Each Dunk Kills Mosquito Larvae For 30 Days or More.

Biological Mosquito Control

Mosquito DUNKS[®]

Kills Mosquitoes

Before They're Old Enough To Bite![®]

FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Can Be Used In Fish Habitats
Place In Containerized Standing Water
Wherever It Accumulates Near the Household:
Flower Pots • Tree Holes • Bird Baths • Rain Barrels
Roof Gutters • Old Tires • Unused Swimming Pools
Animal Watering Troughs

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

CAUTION

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE PRECAUTIONS
FOR USE

ACTIVE INGREDIENT: *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies
israelensis strain BMP 144 solids, spores and insecticidal toxins* 10.31%
INERT INGREDIENTS 89.69%
TOTAL 100%
* Potency: 7000 *Aedes aegypti* (AA) International Toxic Units (ITU)
per milligram primary powder (Dry weight basis) The percent
active ingredient does not indicate performance
and potency measures.



Summit[®]
...responsible solutions.

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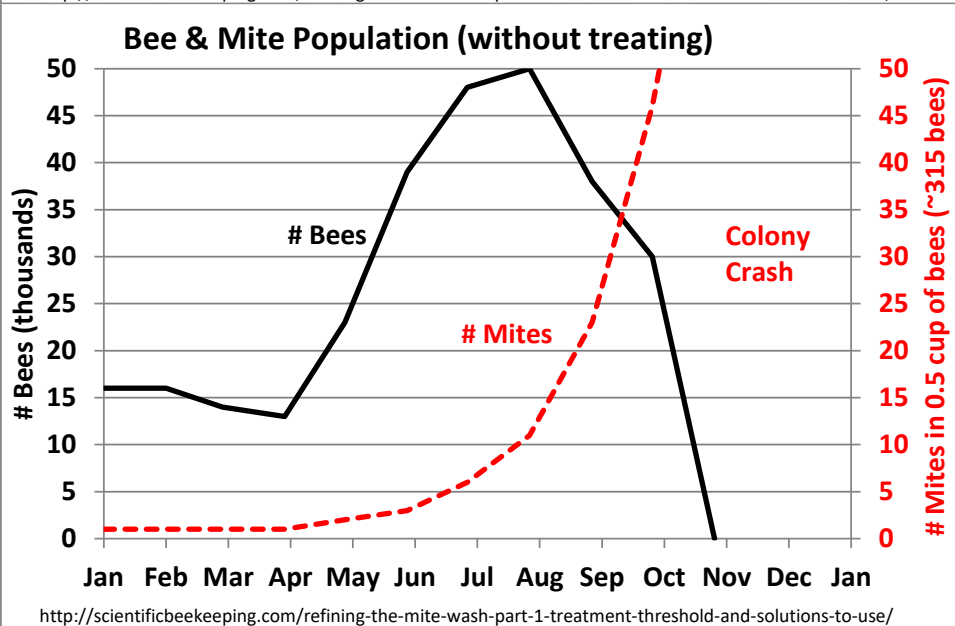
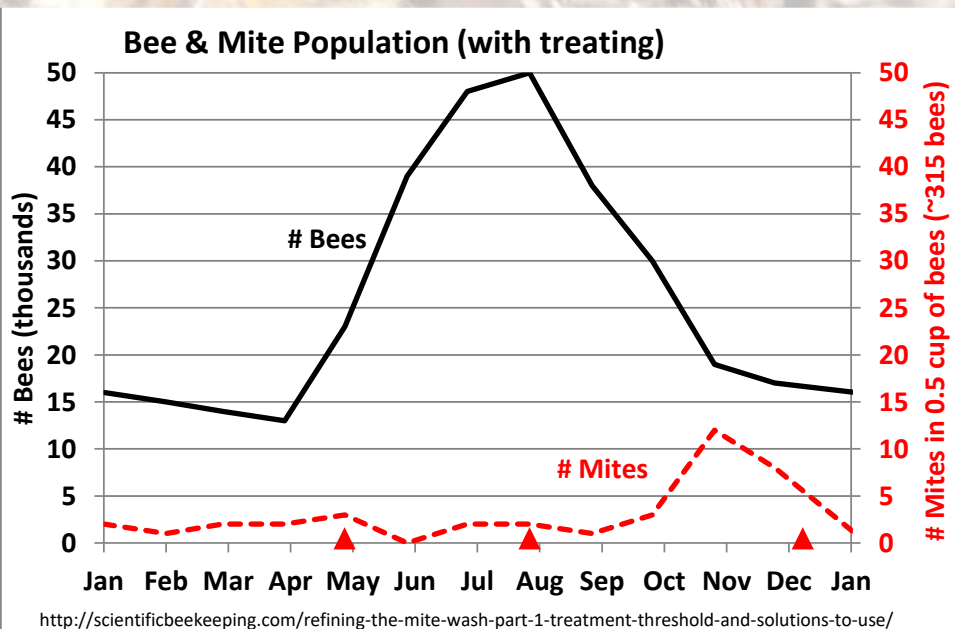
Mosquito dunks are safe for bees & environment

We put them in French drains, rain gutters, etc.



September in the Hive: Population

- Rain brought increase in brood
- Mite population may still be increasing
- Important to check for Varroa
 - Sticky board
 - Alcohol wash
 - Sugar roll
- Act if more than 3 mites per 100 bees (9 mites in half cup)





September: Bees & Beeks

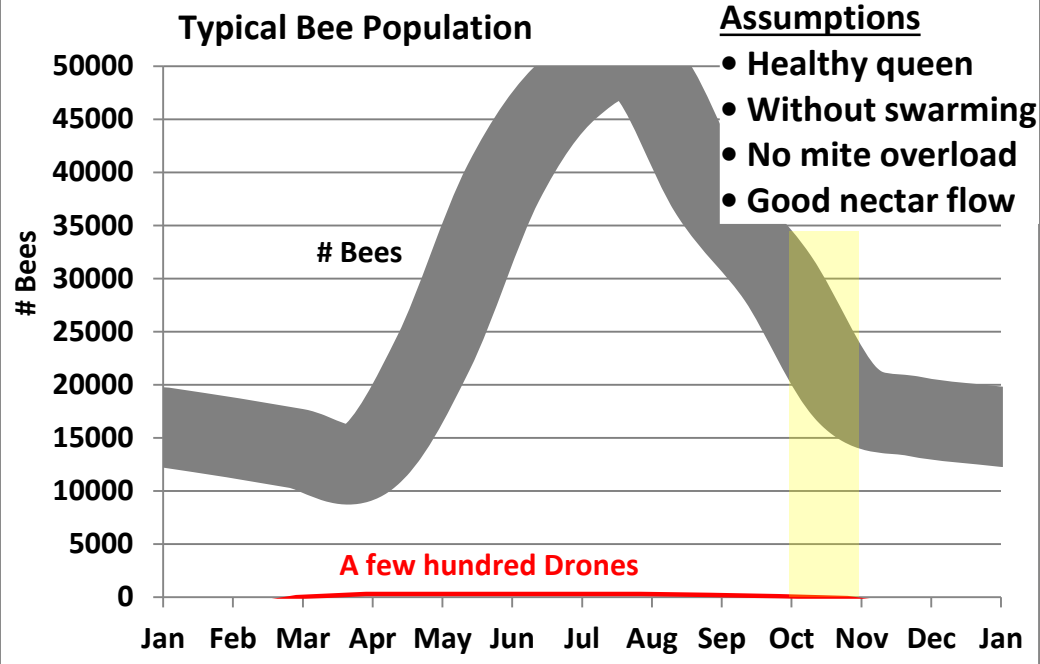
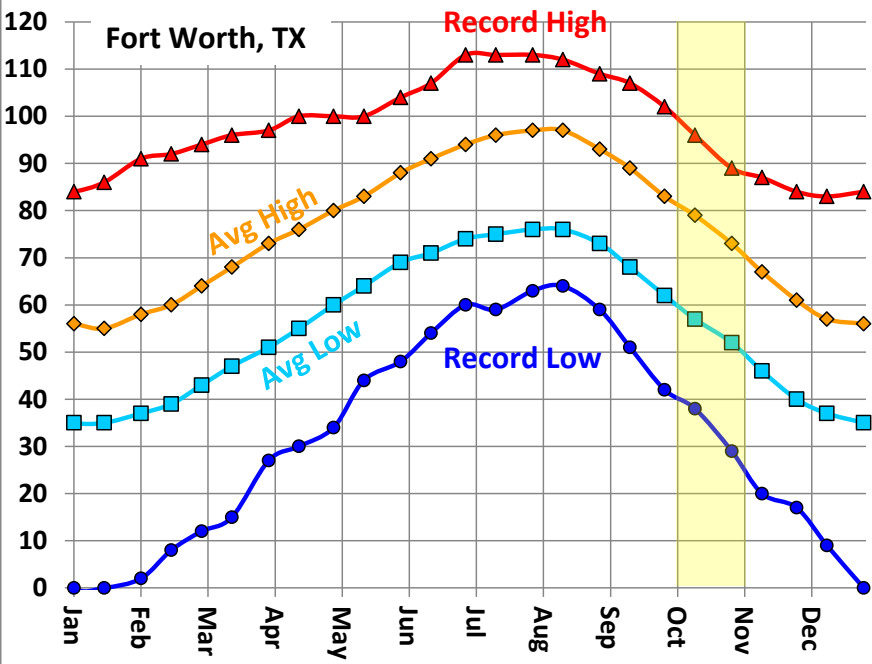
Bees	Beekeeper
Bee population declining. Brood begins to include winter bees.	Inspect regularly (queen, food, pests, housing). Look for good brood patterns, or investigate problems. Still time to re-queen & be strong for winter. Queens still available, but soon no more.
Bees are preparing for winter now. Foraging can include some nectar, pollen, water, or a dearth.	Make sure bees have reliable water supply. Feed to build honey storage, 10 frames, both sides. 1 med frame of honey both sides is ~3 lbs. 1 deep frame of honey both sides is ~4 lbs. Trickle feed helps avoid too fast growth, not sustainable. Feeding can build comb now, instead of during nectar flow. Remove queen excluders a month ago.
Maybe low on pollen, or low-quality pollen	If less than a half frame of pollen per hive, or pollen all one or two colors, adding pollen sub will strengthen winter bees.
Varroa mite levels at/near peak	Monitor for Varroa. Keep colony strong. Combine weak hives. Implement your Integrated Pest Management plan.
May have diseases	Inspect. Terramycin for Foulbrood. Fumidil-B for Nosema.
	Store empty boxes w/ PDB (not naphthalene moth balls!)
	Order bees for Spring?

Queenright, Nutrition, Pests, Diseases, Housing



October in the Hive: Weather & Colony Population

- **Temperature**
 - Record 25° to 100°F
 - Avg 50° to 80°
 - 1st freeze Oct to Jan (avg Nov 22)
- **Nectar flow low/none**
- **Bee population is decreasing for winter**
- **Oct is a good month to treat for mites**



Drought Conditions

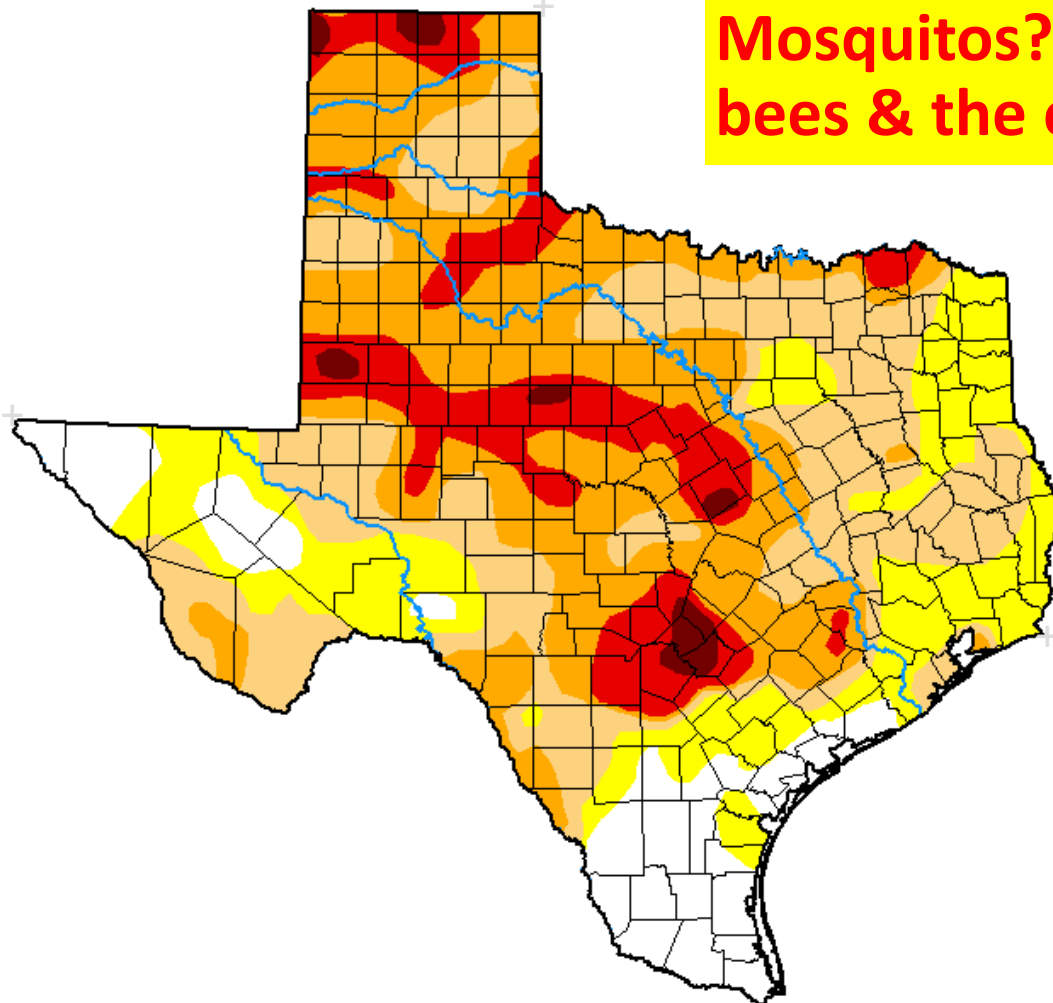
Western Tarrant Co is back to Severe Drought. Make sure bees have water.

October 4, 2022

Released Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Mosquitos? Dunks are safe for bees & the environment.



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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Author:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



October in Hive: Bees & Beeks

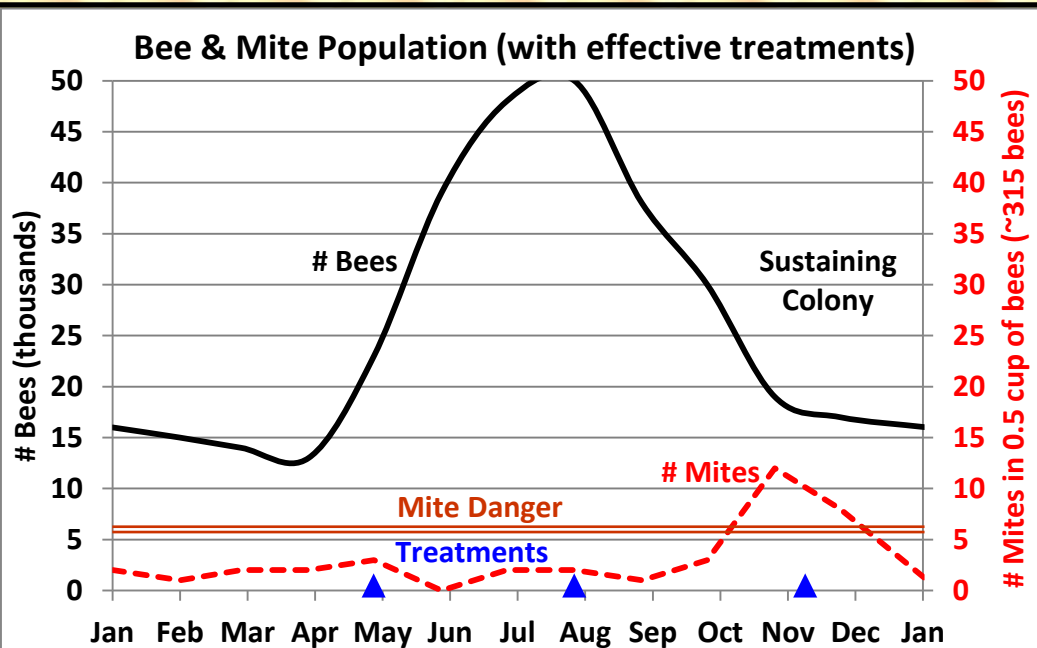
Bees	Beekeeper
Some hives are queenright. Some are not.	Inspect (on warm dry day) & find out if queenright. If weak (less than 4 frames covered w/ bees on both sides), newspaper combine into stronger hives. Too late to re-queen.
No/low nectar coming in. Bees are preparing for winter.	Consider feeding sugar (2:1 syrup, fondant, brick). 2:1 = 2 parts sugar to 1 part water. Why 2:1 in Autumn? Build to ~30 lbs honey storage well before first freeze. Don't overfeed. Leave room for brood. Consider feeding pollen sub to strengthen winter bees.
Bee population is decreasing. Workers emerging now should live through winter (less flying).	Bring hive boxes down to winter size. No queen excluders. Use entrance reducers. Cover bottom screens. To store, freeze frames for >2 days, & store with PDB moth crystals (not moth balls), or whatever your storage choice.
Varroa mite levels may still need attention	Monitor for Varroa. Keep colony strong. Implement your Integrated Pest Management plan. Some treatments have minimum temp 50°F. Follow labels.
Drones are dismissed	Don't be concerned to see drones pushed out.
Likely end of fall swarming	Worry less. Be happy more. Make candles.

- **Queenright, Nutrition, Pests & Diseases, Housing**

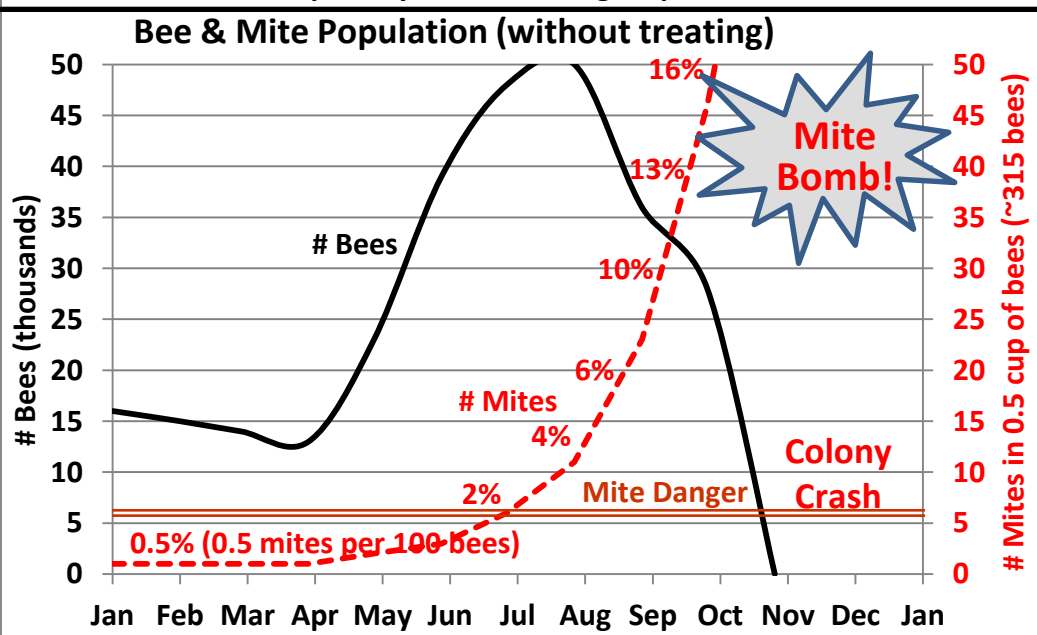




Varroa Mite Management



- **Typical scenario with effective inspections & treatments**
- **More than 3 mites in 100 bees is a real threat to winter survival**

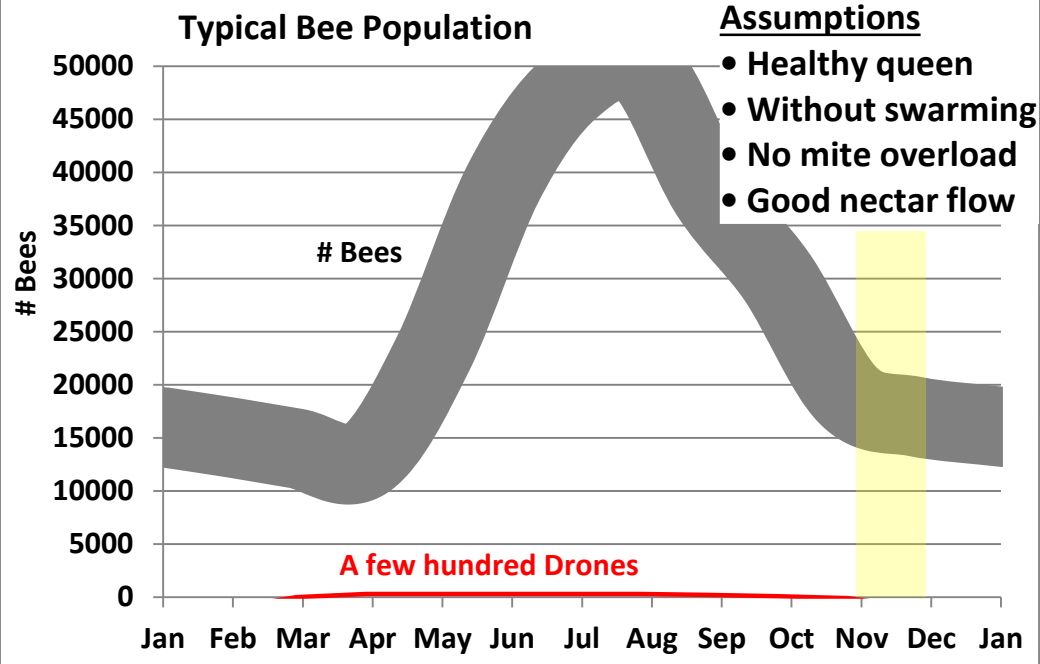
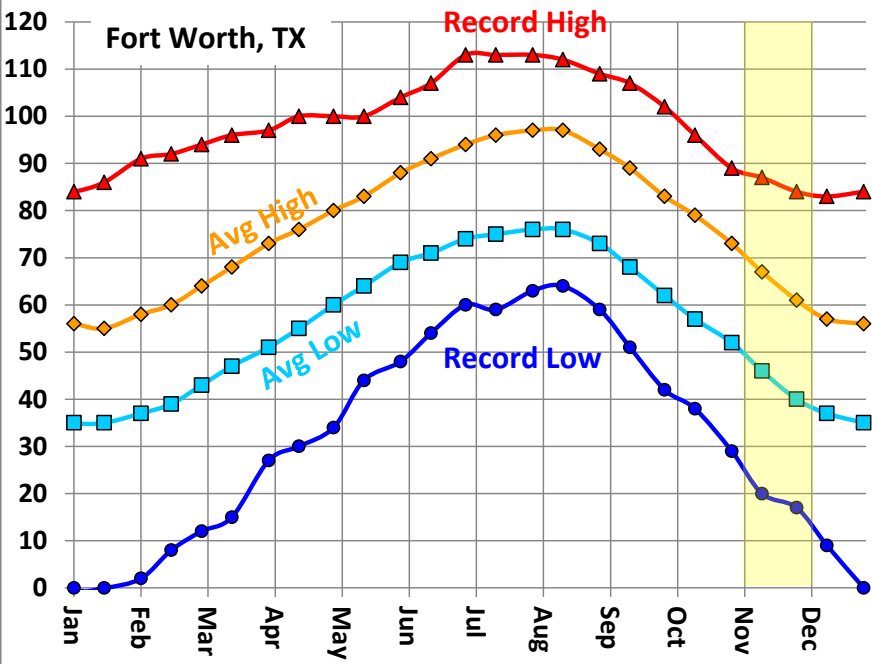


- **Worst case scenario**
- **Please monitor for varroa & take appropriate action**



November in the Hive: Weather & Colony Population

- **Temperature**
 - Record 15° to 88°F
 - Avg 40° to 70°
 - 1st freeze Oct to Jan (avg Nov 22)
- **Nectar flow low/none**
- **Bee population is decreasing for winter**
- **Mite load may warrant attention**



November in Hive: Bees & Beeks

• All year: Queenright, Nutrition, Pests & Diseases

Bees	Beekeeper
Queen health	Eggs & larvae are good sign. Brood patch decreasing is fine.
Some hives are too weak to survive winter	Count frames of bees. Can be done with quick check. Combine weak hive, < 5 frames of bees on both sides.
Prepare for cold weather: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slower brood production • Seal cracks • Cluster when it's cold 	Beekeepers prepare for cold weather: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed if needed for 30-40 lbs of nectar/hive. Full deep=10 lbs. • Check pollen stores. Can supplement if low. • Provide wind break. Use entrance reducer. May want to close screened bottom. Keep ventilation.
Bees keep eating to have energy to generate heat by constantly moving muscles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check if they have enough food stores. • Bees won't take syrup below ~50°, but will take fondant or a sugar brick, which will also absorb moisture (good). • If you put syrup in inside feeder, add about a teaspoon of vinegar per gallon of 2:1 syrup (2 parts sugar to 1 part water for winter), or else syrup can spoil. Also helps pH. • Check pollen stores. Can supplement if low.
Varroa mite levels may still need attention	Monitor for Varroa. Use IPM to keep < 2 mites/100 bees. Treatments can be especially effective when no/low brood. Hopguard, OA fume, Apivar. If 50 to 85° for a week, then MAQS available. If temp 60 to 105°, then Thymol available. Treatments have limits. Follow the labels.



December in Hive: Bees & Beeks

• All year: Queenright, Nutrition, Pests & Diseases

Bees	Beekeeper
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bees keep eating • No nectar & not much pollen coming in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check if 30 to 40 lbs (10 frames) honey • Bees won't take syrup below ~50°, but will take sugar brick on top bars in shallow box, will also absorb moisture (good). • Bees may eat neighbor's chicken feed. Feed open pollen.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe no brood or eggs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That's ok until late Jan or Feb, depending on weather
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clustering when cold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide wind break. Use entrance reducer. • Close screened bottom. Keep ventilation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wintering bees have die-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If box nearly empty, you can remove box, but not necessary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% to 50% hives may die 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • React quickly. Freeze frames for 2+ days to kill pests. • To protect from pest damage, store in plastic bags with PDB moth crystals. In Spring, air-out & give to bees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleansing flights, warm day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerate little yellow spots on car
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need clean comb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotate old or dirty comb, replace with new frames
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need nice neighborhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair boxes, re-paint boxes, repair stands, prepare ground
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to relocate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to move hives on cold days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more neighbors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order bees / queens for Spring, provided in sequence of order

