

Inside the Hive - April

Spring Honeybee Activity in South Carolina

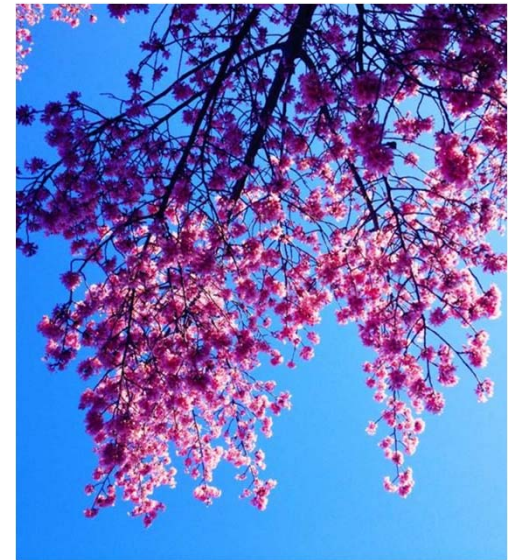
What's Happening Inside the Hive (April–May)

Kathy Carpineto



Overview of Spring Season

- Most active time of year
- Rapid colony growth
- Driven by warmth, nectar, pollen
- Population explodes



April: Inside the Hive

- Rapid brood expansion
- Queen laying heavily
- Workers collecting pollen & nectar



April: Visible Activity

- Heavy flight activity
- Orientation flights
- Drones appear
- Comb building



April: Swarming Begins

- Crowding triggers swarming
- Queen cells built
- Old queen may leave



April: Nectar Sources

- Dandelion
- Clover
- Fruit trees
- Maple & willow



May: Peak Activity

- Maximum population
- Heavy nectar flow
- Honey production begins



May: Inside the Hive

- Queen lays up to 1,500 eggs/day
- Dense brood nest
- Frames filling with honey

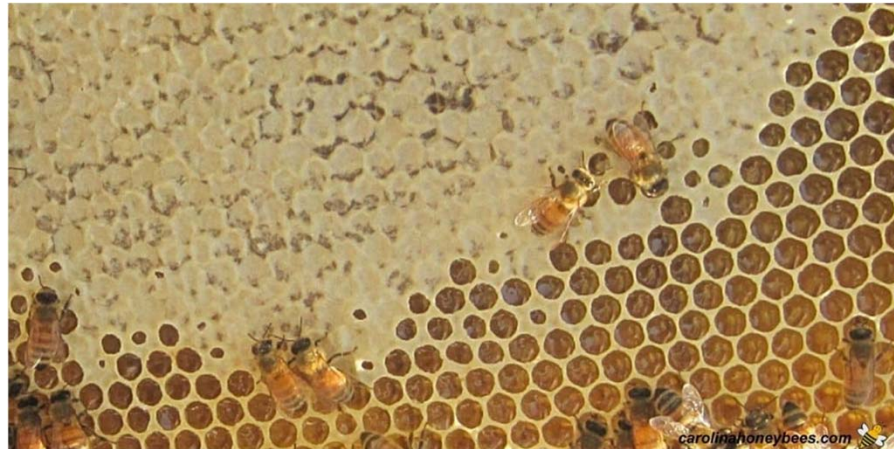
May: Swarming Continues

- Strong colonies swarm
- Multiple queen cells



Honey Production

- Nectar collected
- Moisture evaporated
- Honey capped with wax



Spring Challenges

- Weather fluctuations
- High food demand
- Varroa mites & beetles



Beekeeper Focus

- Watch crowding
- Check queen
- Inspect every 7–10 days

Key Takeaways

- April = growth
- May = production
- Spring determines success

Conclusion

- Critical season
- Strong colonies now = better yields