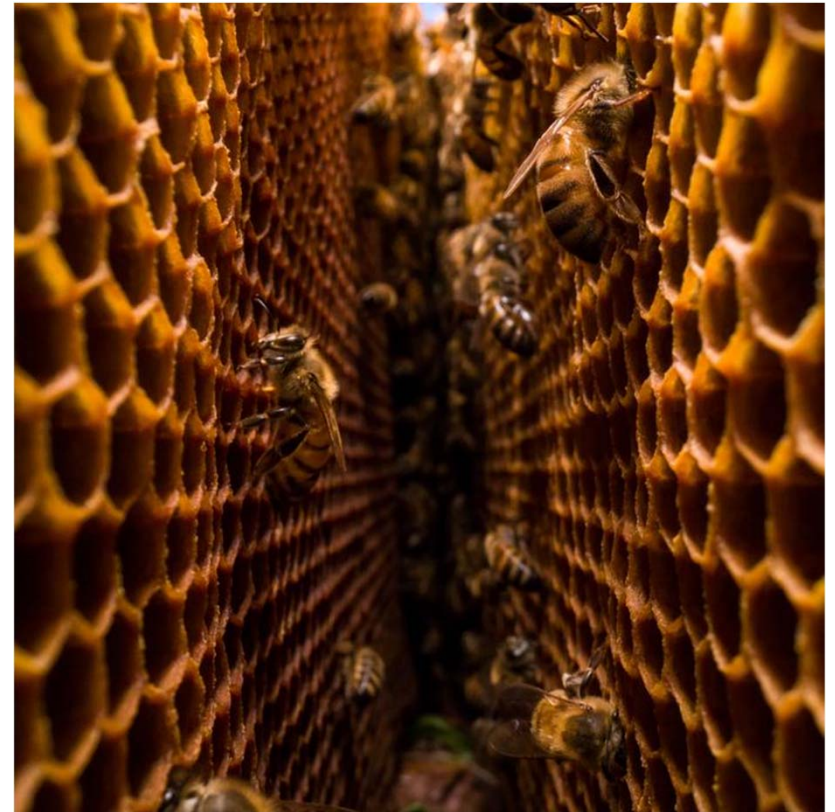


Inside the Hive – May & June

- In the Midlands May and June are peak build up and nectar flow months in the hive
- Colonies can grow rapidly, swarm and fill honey supers



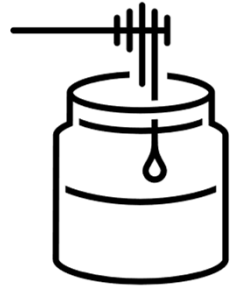
May Checklist

Colony Management

- Watch for swarm cells and queen cups
- Verify that queen is laying solid brood pattern
- Add honey supers BEFORE bees need them
- Reverse brood boxes if needed
- Ensure proper ventilation as temps increase
- Monitor for crowding in brood nest



May Checklist



Honey Production

- Spring nectar flow is usually strong
- Add supers early rather than late
- Use drawn comb if possible to support faster honey storage
- Monitor hive weight weekly



May Checklist

Pest and Disease Management

- Begin regular varroa mite checks looking for:
 - Deformed wings
 - Spotty brood
 - Chalkbrood or small hive beetles
 - Install beetle traps if needed



May Checklist

Queen and Swarm Prevention

- Split strong colonies if crowded
- Provide additional space before cells are capped
- Remove swarm cells only if you understand why they have formed



Water

- Provide shallow water with landing surfaces
- Bees need large amounts of water during brood rearing



June Checklist

Nectar flow changes

- Early June may still be strong
- Late June often begins nectar dearth in Midlands



Hive tasks

- Continue supering as needed
- Watch for backfilling of brood nest with nectar
- Harvest honey when frames are at least 80-90% capped
- Reduce entrances if robbing begins



June Checklist

Heat management

- Increase ventilation
- Slightly tilt hives forward for moisture drainage
- Afternoon shade can help in extreme heat



June Checklist

Varroa monitoring

- June is key month to begin preparing for mite control
- Perform mite counts
- Plan treatments after honey harvest if mite counts are high

Small hive beetles

- Pressure increases significantly in June
- Keep colonies strong
- Avoid leaving burr comb exposed
- Don't leave honey supers open nearby



Hive Entrance



What you can expect to see at the hive entrance:

- Heavy yellow/orange pollen loads (clover, blackberry, tulip poplar, holly, wildflowers)
- Increased bearding (normal for hot weather with strong nectar flow)
- Evening “roaring” – can indicate heavy nectar curing and honey processing