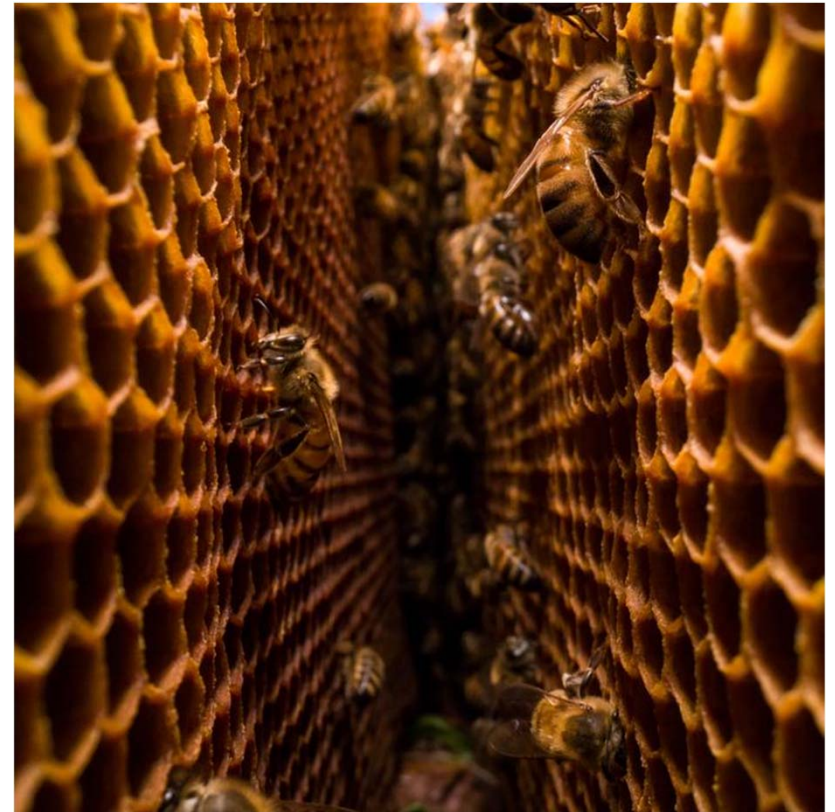


Inside the Hive – July

- Nectar flow is slowing in many areas.
- Colonies remain large and consume significant resources.
- Heat and humidity increase colony stress.



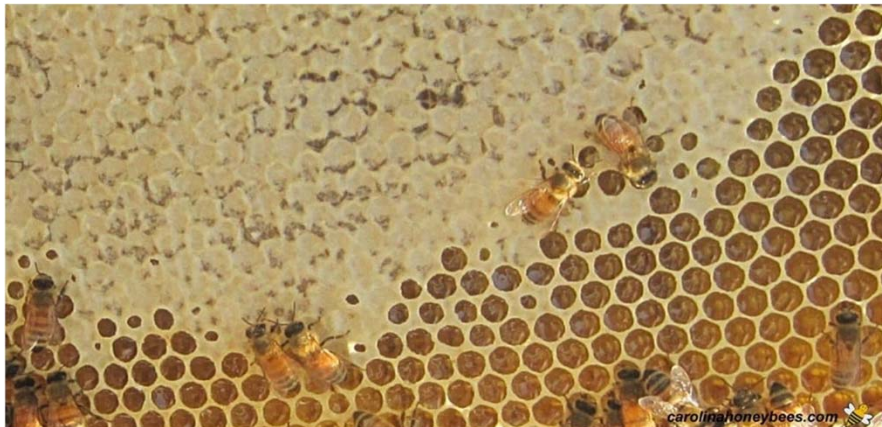
Hive Inspections

- Confirm queen is present and laying.
- Check brood pattern and colony strength.
- Watch for signs of disease and pests.



Monitor Food Stores

- Assess honey reserves regularly.
- Colonies can become light during summer dearth.
- Feed if necessary based on colony condition.



Varroa Mite Management



- Monitor mite levels with approved testing methods.
- July is a critical time to evaluate treatment needs.
- Follow label directions for any treatment used.



Ventilation and Heat Control

- Provide adequate hive ventilation.
- Ensure nearby water sources are available.
- Reduce excessive heat stress where possible.



Swarm and Space Management

- Late swarms can still occur.
- Remove unused equipment if appropriate.
- Ensure colonies have adequate room.



July Bloom Sources in the Midlands



- Clover (where available)
- Sumac
- Partridge pea
- Crepe myrtle (limited nectar value but visited by bees)



Preparing for Late Summer

- Evaluate colony strength.
- Plan for August mite management and feeding needs.
- Replace failing queens if necessary.



Key Takeaways

- Monitor mites, food stores, queen performance, and ventilation.
- Healthy July colonies are better prepared for fall buildup.