

## ‘Honey Boy Apiaries’ Beekeeping Flora List – Sunshine Coast & Hinterland – Cooloola Coast, Queensland

<b>HONEY &amp; POLLEN FLORA</b>					
<b>EUCALYPTS:</b>					NB: Eucalypts don't always flower annually. They are mainly influenced by seasonal events such as rainfall, drought & temperature.
<b>GUMS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Blue Gum / Forest Red Gum / Queensland Blue Gum</b> <i>(Eucalyptus tereticornis)</i>	July – November NB: Bees occas. aggressive when on Blue Gum.	Minor - Medium (Med every 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> year.)	Major (Generally good quality.)	Pale Amber	Important tree for apiaries. Assists Winter/Spring build-up. Pleasant honey with a toffee & caramel flavour.
<b>Grey Gum – 2 types:</b> <i>(Eucalyptus major)</i> and <i>(Eucalyptus punctata)</i> <small>(‘Punctata’ refers to the ‘spotted’ oil glands that give the leaves their dotted appearance.)</small>	December – February	Medium (Good crops of honey if Grey Gum flowering in dry periods.)	High (Pollen generally okay but variable quality iso-leucine protein can knock bees around.)	Pale Amber – Clear Medium Amber	Similar to Narrow-leaved Grey Gum. Pollen possibly contributes to reduced brood rearing due to large quantities of it setting hard in brood super. Occasionally high bee mortality rates.
<b>Lemon Scented Gum</b> <i>(Corymbia citriodora)</i>	June – August (But can flower across whole yr.)	Medium	Medium (Pollen good quality.)	Extra Light Amber to Dark	Some reports of good honey and pollen. Similar notes to ‘ <i>E. Maculata</i> ’, Spotted Gum.
<b>Narrow-leaved (Red/Grey) Gum</b> <i>(Eucalyptus seeana)</i>	September – December	Medium - Major	Medium	Pale Amber – Medium Amber	Heavily flowering species giving abundant nectar and pollen. Pleasant aromatic honey – moderate density.
<b>River Red Gum (Widow Maker)</b> <i>(Eucalyptus camaldulensis)</i>	Late Spring – Mid-Summer. Usually flowers each 2 <sup>nd</sup> year.	Major	Major & of good quality.	Golden	Important species for Australian honey industry.
<b>Rose Gum / Flooded Gum</b> <i>(Eucalyptus grandis)</i>	March – May	Minor	Medium	Pale – Medium Amber	Heavy flowering but ‘shy’ honey yield. Helps hives through late Autumn/ early Winter. Strong unpleasant honey if pure on frames.
<b>Scribbly Gum</b> <i>(Eucalyptus racemosa)</i> and <i>(Eucalyptus signata)</i>	July – October	Minor - occasionally Medium	Nil - Minor	Medium Amber	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade honey – ‘bitter-sweet’ but Scribbly Gum can provide back-up support to colonies through available nectar and pollen supplies.
<b>Small-fruited Grey Gum</b> <i>(Eucalyptus propinqua)</i>	January - March	Minor	Medium	Extra Light – Light Amber	Pleasant flavour – good supporting species.
<b>Spotted Gum</b> <i>(Corymbia maculata)</i> <small>(aka <i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>)</small> <small>Maculata from Latin ‘maculosus’ or ‘speckled’, referring to the blotched pattern on its trunk.</small>	Winter – Spring Spotted Gum is another species reported to cause aggressive bees when they are working blossoms.	Minor (Occ. Spotted Gum produces an abundant and widespread flowering on a 5 – 7-year cycle.)	Medium (Occ. collected by bees in such large quantities that it can choke up the brood super.)	Extra Light Amber – Light Amber	Superb for Winter/Spring build-up. NB: buds may ‘hang’ 12-15mths before finally ‘breaking’ to flowers with nectar. Watch for bees carrying this pollen to hives in huge wedge-shaped loads.

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<b>BLOODWOODS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Pink Bloodwood</b> ( <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> ) Also ( <i>E. intermedia</i> )	January - March	Minor – Medium	Medium	Pale Amber – Medium. (Occasional red tint.)	Most important of Aust. bloodwoods. Can stimulate late summer swarming. Only fair flavour. Frames must be fully capped before robbing.
<b>Red Bloodwood</b> ( <i>Corymbia gummifera</i> )	January - April	Minor - Medium	Medium	Pale Amber – Medium. Occ. With a red tint.	Often confused with <i>Eucalyptus intermedia</i> (See ‘Blake & Roff’ pg. 9.)
<b>White or Brown Bloodwood</b> ( <i>Corymbia trachyphloia</i> )	February – April	Minor	Medium	Light – Pale Amber	Inferior honey – if harvested ensure all cells are capped to reduce fermentation risk.
<b>Cadagi / Cadaga/ Cadaghi</b> ( <i>Corymbia torelliana</i> )	Spring - Summer	Minor - Medium	Minor – Medium	Dark + a propolis source.	NB: Harmful to native social bee hives ( <i>Trigona c.</i> ) due to compulsive resin collection.
<b>Carbeen Bloodwood / Moreton Bay Ash</b> ( <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> ) and ( <i>E. tessellaris</i> )	November – February	Nil – Minor	Nil – Minor	Light Amber	Mildly acidic flavour. Of little use to beekeepers.
<b>IRONBARKS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Broad-leaved Ironbark / Red Ironbark / Black Ironbark / Blue-top Ironbark</b> ( <i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> )	April – December (Primarily December)	Minor	Medium	White – Extra Light Amber	First grade honey. Mild sweet flavour.
<b>Grey Ironbark / White Ironbark</b> ( <i>Eucalyptus drepanophylla</i> ) aka ( <i>E. siderophloia</i> )	July – December Some flowering every year but approx. every 3 <sup>rd</sup> year there is a mass flowering with good yields.	Medium - Major	Minor. When bees are working Grey Iron Bark they need an alternative pollen source.	White – Extra Light Amber	One of the most valuable coastal nectar trees. Dense honey with good flavour and colour. ‘Ironbark Honey’ is a very popular blend.
<b>Mugga / Red Ironbark</b> ( <i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i> )	May - November	Major	Nil – Minor	Extra Light Amber	High quality honey – granulates quickly. Some loss of colony strength when worked in mid-Winter due to limited pollen.
<b>Narrow-leaved Red Ironbark</b> ( <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> )	August – December	Minor – Major (Major 1 in 4 years)	Major (Not of high quality and may result in hive collapse.)	Extra White – Extra Light Amber	Erratic nectar producer – better if good Summer rains and mild Winter. High quality honey – dense, good colour & mild sweet flavour.
<b>Silver-Leaved Ironbark</b> ( <i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> )	December – February	Medium – Major (If high level of ground moisture.)	Medium – Major but average quality	White – Light Amber & Aromatic	In coastal areas, it can be an erratic nectar producer. Dense honey with slightly aromatic flavour.

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<b>STRINGYBARKS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Red Mahogany / Forest Mahogany / Red Messmate</b> <i>(Eucalyptus resinifera)</i>	October - February	Medium - Major every 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Major	Pale Amber	Sharp flavour and best blended with other honeys. Froths if heated.
<b>Thin-leaved Stringybark / Pink Blackbutt</b> <i>(Eucalyptus eugenioides)</i>	March – September (Erratic flowering - usually Autumn and 1 good bloom every 3-5 years.)	Medium – Major	Medium but good quality protein reported.	Medium – Dark Amber	Known as ‘ <i>Good kind Stringybark</i> ’ by NSW beekeepers as it produces the last crop before Winter. Good for over-Wintering.
<b>Messmate Stringybark / Browntop Stringybark / Broadleaf Messmate</b> <i>(Eucalyptus obliqua)</i>	January – March	Major	Good quality	Honey has red highlights	The nectar tends to make the bees defensive and protective of their colonies (read ‘ <i>aggressive</i> ’). Called ‘ <i>12-day wonder</i> ’ due to large quantities produced over a short period.
<b>White Mahogany</b> <i>(Eucalyptus umbra)</i> (aka <i>E. carnea</i> )	October – December	Medium	Medium (Generally of good quality.)	Pale Amber – Medium Amber	See notes below for <i>E. acmenoides</i> – Yellow Stringybark.
<b>Yellow Stringybark / White Mahogany / Yellow Jacket</b> <i>(Eucalyptus acmenoides)</i>	October – December (If no other pollen available when bees working these flowers then hives can be weakened.)	Medium	Major (Generally good quality but low levels of some available proteins can be hard on bees.)	Pale Amber – Medium Amber	Reliable for pollen and nectar. Usually flowers in conjunction with Grey Ironbark. Has sharp flavour but blends well with Grey Ironbark honey.
<b>White Stringybark / Qld Stringybark / Pink Blackbutt / Brown Stringybark</b> <i>(Eucalyptus nigra)</i>	February - April	Minor	Minor	Pale Amber – Medium Amber	Poor producer. Bees will work species intensively to little profit. It only seems to wear them out with high field-bee mortality rates.
<b>OTHER EUCALYPTS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Blackbutt / Grey Blackbutt</b> <i>(Eucalyptus pilularis)</i>	February – April (but can flower any time of year.)	Minor – Maj (Usually 7-8 yrs between good flows.)	Medium (Stimulates colony build-up.)	Light Amber	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade honey. Strong sharp flavour. Some reports that it tastes like golden syrup.
<b>Gympie Messmate / ‘Qld Politician’</b> <i>(Eucalyptus cloeziana)</i> (Tessellated flaky bark – but not a stringybark. Occas. confused with Yellow Bloodwood).	October – December/ January	Minor - Medium	Minor – Medium (cream colour)	Dark	Irregular honey producer. Gympie Messmate can carry its buds for up to 12 months & can then drop them all before flowering. I call it ‘The Politicians’ Tree’ because it’s full of promises but seldom delivers.
<b>Grey Box / Gum-topped Box</b> <i>(Eucalyptus moluccana)</i>	February – April	Medium - Major	Nil Very hard on bees and they should be moved off after 10 days.	White – Medium Amber	Honey must be ripe & fully capped before extracting or you’ll risk fermentation. Honey has a fair flavour. Colonies will dwindle when GB worked due to nil pollen.

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<b>Swamp Messmate / Swamp Mahogany</b> <i>(Eucalyptus robusta)</i>	June – July	Minor	Minor – Medium of average quality	Medium – Dark Amber	Usually flowers in association with paperbark tea tree. Quite a reliable producer. Pleasant flavoured honey.
<b>Tallowwood</b> <i>(Eucalyptus microcorys)</i>	August – October Buds are carried for approximately 7 months before opening.	Minor Produces an occasional nectar flow but not reliable.	Medium	Light - Medium Amber. Reportedly excellent quality.	Not as important as it looks when in flower as it's a flashy tree with little substance for beekeepers. Can be useful as a pollen source in some districts.
<b>Turpentine Gum</b> <i>(Syncarpia glomulifera)</i>	August – December	Medium	Medium	Light Amber	Good pollen but unpalatable honey.
<b>Yellow Box</b> <i>(Eucalyptus melliodora)</i>	September - March	Major (1-5 years)	Minor & of poor quality	Light Amber Aromatic	Highly regarded honey. Can wear bees out as limited pollen.
<b>LOPHOSTEMONS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Qld Brush Box / Brisbane Box / Pink Box / Scrub Box</b> <i>(Lophostemon confertus)</i>	December - January (Nectar can literally drip out of the flowers.)	Medium - occasionally Major	Minor	Extra White – Light Amber	Erratic nectar producer – yields best on high country. Occasional heavy crop. First grade honey – slightly aromatic, good density.
<b>Swamp Mahogany / Swamp Box / Swamp Turpentine</b> <i>(Lophostemon suaveolens)</i> (aka <i>Tristania suaveolens</i> ) (See pg. 91 of Roff & Blake).	October / November – January	Medium – occasionally Major	Nil – Minor	White - Extra Light Amber	Usually produces small amounts of nectar most years. Some prolific years with good flows reported. First grade honey.
<b>ANGOPHORAS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Broad-Leaved Apple</b> <i>(Angophora subvelutina)</i>	December – January	Minor	Major	Dark Amber	Not a good honey tree. 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade honey with strong flavour. Good pollen source.
<b>Rough-Barked Apple</b> <i>(Angophora floribunda)</i>	December – February	Medium	Major	Dark Amber	Strong flavoured honey best left on hives for bee food. Flowers same time as Ironbarks.
<b>Rusty Gum / Smooth-barked Apple / Sugar Gum</b> <i>(Angophora leiocarpa – prev. A. costata)</i>	December – January (Snow-white when in flower – can be seen for miles.) Flowers irregularly.	Minor – Medium 1 in 5 years.	Major (Large quantities of this pollen can ‘choke-out’ the brood super.)	Pale Amber – Medium Amber (Other report of ‘dark’ honey.)	Erratic nectar producer. Honey palatable but 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade. Good source of quality pollen and will help to build colony strength.

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<b>Smudgee / Apple-tree Bloodwood / Smudgy Apple (<i>Angophora woodsiana</i>)</b>	December – January	Minor	Major	Dark Amber	See notes for Broad-leaved Apple.
<b>TEA TREES:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Flax-leaved Paperbark / Snow-in-Summer / Narrow- leaved Paperbark (<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>)</b>	October/ November – December	Minor	Medium	Dark Amber Strong flavour.	Good species for building colony strength. Limited honey production.
<b>Paper-barked Tea Tree (<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>)</b> (NB: A sweet drink can be made by dipping some tea tree blossoms in a jug of water to dissolve the nectar.)	March – July (Can bloom several times although only one will usually be of much benefit to beekeepers.)	Major (One of the most important species on the Sunshine Coast.)	Major (Pollen high quality with protein level of 30%. Stimulates queen to lay.	Extra Light Amber – Dark Amber + 0.5 - 0.8 kg pollen per/ day yields.	Lighter honey north of Caloundra. Strong flavour but a popular local table honey. Granulates quickly/ darkens with heat. Valuable Autumn & Winter apiary sites. Some medicinal value.
<b>Prickly-leaved Paperbark (<i>Melaleuca nodosa</i>)</b>	September – October	Minor	Medium (Off-white colour.)	Dark Amber	Poor quality honey but good pollen makes suitable bee food. Another Pr-leaved PB is <i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i> – don't confuse the two.
<b>Weeping Paperbark (<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>)</b>	Can flower any time of year.	Medium - Major	Medium - Major	Extra Light Amber – Dark Amber	Appears attractive to bees but limited published information on nectar and pollen production for bees.
<b>Wild May / Jelly Bush (<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>)</b>  More recently marketed as Australian Manuka. Reputation as a valuable medicinal application for skin complaints, infections, sore throats, etc.	August – September (Possibly November?) (Not always a reliable producer – maybe every 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year.)	Medium (Nectar initially quite thin but once ripened it 'jellies' in the honey supers.)	Medium	Dark Amber Active constituent, methylglyoxal	Moderate citrus flavour – not unpleasant. 'Jellies' in the honey supers. Otherwise, a good bee food if left on frames. Old bee- keeper's rule was to always move hives off apiary sites with Jelly Bush before they flowered as it's a real bugger to extract without damaging wax foundations.
<b>Weeping Tea Tree (<i>Leptospermum brachyandrum</i>)</b>	Late Spring – Early Summer	Attractive to nectar- eating birds so also maybe bees?	No Info.	No Info.	Limited published information on apiary value of either nectar or pollen. Worth more investigation.
<b>Lemon Scented Tea Tree (<i>Leptospermum petersonii</i>)</b>	October - December	Unknown	Unknown	No Info.	Attractive to bees. Sunshine Coast is part of its natural distribution.
<b>CALLISTEMONS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Red Bottlebrush / Weeping Bottlebrush (<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>)</b>	August – October	Minor	Medium	Medium Amber	Poor flavour and weak density. But helps to build colony strength during Spring flowerings.

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<b>White Bottlebrush</b> <i>(Callistemon salignus)</i>	September – October	Medium	Medium	Medium Amber	Valuable pollen and nectar supplies in Spring. Stimulates colonies to breed and strengthen. Reportedly very good for raising queens.
<b>Wallum Bottlebrush</b> <i>(Melaleuca pachyphyllus)</i> aka <i>(Callistemon pachyphyllus)</i>	Early – late Spring and early – late Autumn	No Info.	No Info.	No Info.	Attractive to bees but nectar and pollen quantities not known.
<b>SHE-OAKS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Black She-oak</b> <i>(Allocasuarina littoralis)</i>	April – October	Nil	Medium	N/A	Bees de-husk the flowers and leave remnants at hive entrance. Signs of orange brown ‘saw-dust’ are an indication that colonies are working She-oak pollen.
<b>River She-oak</b> <i>(Casuarina cunninghamiana)</i>	April – October	Nil	Medium	N/A	“ “ “ “
<b>Rose She-oak</b> <i>(Allocasuarina torulosa)</i>	April - May	Nil	Minor	N/A	“ “ “ “
<b>Swamp She-oak</b> <i>(Casurina glauca)</i>	September - October	Nil	Minor	N/A	“ “ “ “
<b>Mount Coolum She-oak</b> <i>(Allocasuarina thalassoscopia)</i>	To be advised (Quite rare to Sunshine Coast).	Nil	Minor	N/A	“ “ “ “
<b>WATTLES:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Brisbane Black Wattle</b> <i>(Acacia leiocalyx)</i> <i>(Acacia concurrens)</i> <i>(Acacia cunninghamii)</i>	Late July - Early September	Nil	Medium (but poor quality).	N/A	No honey but may help to build colony strength after Winter. Bees won’t work this species in dry weather.
<b>Brisbane Golden Wattle</b> <i>(Acacia fimbriata)</i>	July – September	Nil	Medium (but poor quality).	N/A	Bees won’t usually work Golden Wattle in dry spells but may work it if colony is short on pollen stores.
<b>Hickory Wattle / Brown Salwood</b> <i>(Acacia aulacocarpa)</i>	January - May	Nil	Medium (but poor quality).	N/A	Bees will work flowers for pollen when the flowers are fresh but it won’t stimulate brood rearing despite good quantities of pollen.
<b>Queensland Silver Wattle</b> <i>(Acacia podalyriifolia)</i>	Late Winter – Early Spring	Nil	Medium (but poor quality).	N/A	NB: Flowers can be used in cooking sweet fritters.
<b>Red Wattle / Yellow Wattle</b> <i>(Acacia flavescens)</i>	Autumn - Winter	Nil	Unknown	N/A	Coolum is the Southern limit of species

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Sallow Wattle / Sydney Golden Wattle ( <i>Acacia longifolia</i> )	Early Winter – Early Spring	Nil	Medium - Major	N/A	Useful pollen source.
<b>GREVILLIAS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
Silky Oak ( <i>Grevillea robusta</i> )	October - November	Mixed reports varying from Nil - Medium	Medium but good quality.	Dark Amber	Okay source of pollen. Thick, dark honey that crystalizes quickly.
Grevillea (hybrids) e.g. ‘Robyn Gordon’	Late Winter – Spring (Particularly good for spring build-up).	Medium with occasional surplus.	Minor	No Info.	Bees can’t get access to a lot of grevillea nectar but some hybrids such as ‘Robyn Gordon’ have been described as ‘outstanding for bees’.
<b>BANKSIAS:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
Banksia / Honeysuckle Oak ( <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> )	April - May	Medium	Medium – Major but of average quality.	Dark Amber Crystalizes quickly	Makes good apiary site to build strength but otherwise poor-quality honey with strong flavour (malty/woody).
Broad-leaved Banksia / Swamp Banksia ( <i>Banksia robur</i> )	Autumn - Winter	Minor	Minor	Dark Amber	B-L Banksia makes a good apiary site to build strength but otherwise poor-quality honey with strong flavour.
Golden Candlesticks ( <i>Banksia spinulosa</i> var. <i>collina</i> )	March - November	Minor	Minor	Dark Amber	Okay for bee food but otherwise poor-quality honey with strong flavour.
<b>MANGROVES:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
Grey Mangrove / White Mangrove ( <i>Avicennia marina</i> )	February	Minor to occasionally Medium (Maybe just leave it on the hives.)	Medium to occasionally Major	Extra White	Strong flavour (taste has been described as similar to ‘cat’s piss’) and impairs the grade of other honeys in which it is blended. Otherwise – good bee food.
River Mangrove / Small Black Mangrove ( <i>Aegiceras corniculatum</i> )	October - November	Major on alternate years	Major	Extra White	Most valuable of mangroves with bees thriving on this tree. Honey has good colour and a distinctive but not unpleasant flavour. Common on Qld waterways.
<b>MISCELANEOUS AUST. SPECIES:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
Crow’s Ash / Australian Teak ( <i>Flindersia australis</i> )	August - November	Medium	Nil	N/A	Honey reportedly tastes similar to Leatherwood H.

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<b>Guioa / Wild Quince / Flandowski / Crow’s Ash</b> <i>(Guioa semiglauca)</i>	September – November Flowers heavily every second yr.	Major	Nil	Pale with acidic flavour, sweet scent, highly aromatic.	Granulates rapidly. Saponin in bark was used as a fish poison by Aboriginals.
<b>White Cedar</b> <i>(Melia azedarach var. australasica)</i>	Spring	No Info.	No Info.	N/A	Stimulates build-up of colony. Fruit is poisonous to humans & livestock.
<b>Dogwood</b> <i>(Jacksonia scoparia)</i>	August – October	Minor	Medium (Red pollen.)	N/A	Reliable pollen and species is attractive to bees. Pollen is of good quality and assists colony build-up after Winter.
<b>Forest Boronia</b> <i>(Boronia rosmarinifolia)</i>	November – May	Medium	Medium	N/A	Attractive to bees for pollen and nectar. Helps with Spring build-up.
<b>Golden Penda</b> <i>(Xanthostemon chrysanthus)</i>	Gen. late Winter - Autumn (But can flower any month.)	Medium	Medium	No Info.	Reportedly a useful honey plant if sufficient plants available.
<b>Grass-tree</b> <i>(Xanthorrhoea – various species throughout S. E. Qld)</i>	Spring – Summer	Minor	Major	N/A	Produces a bitter honey that’s best left on hive. Bees build strength on it though. A source of propolis that ‘sets like rock’ in Winter and is very sticky in Summer.
<b>Hairy Bush Pea</b> <i>(Pultenaea villosa)</i>	June – September	Nil	Major (Good quality.)	N/A	Used for building colonies.
<b>Bangalow Palm</b> <i>(Archontophoenix cunninghamiana)</i>	Mid-Summer	No Info.	Reports of bees working for pollen.	N/A	Obviously attractive to bees who will work the flower clusters intensively.
<b>Ivory Curl Tree</b> <i>(Buckinghamia celsissima)</i>	September - February	Medium	Medium – Major (Reported good quality)	Light Colour Mild flavour	Reportedly very attractive to bees. Originates Nth Queensland. Similar to Macadamia. Bees build well on this species.
<b>Macadamia / Queensland Nut / Bauple Nut</b> <i>(Macadamia integrifolia)</i>	Mid-August – Mid-September (Farmers should not spray Macad. orchards during flowering.)	Medium for about a fortnight. Approx. 25-50kg per hive each season.	Medium (Protein quality is variable and breeds ‘low protein bees’.)	Med - Dark Amber – slight molasses flavour. Not unpleasant.	Bees will work Macadamia for the nectar, rather than its questionable pollen so beekeepers need to ensure other pollen sources are available to keep colonies strong whilst feeding.
<b>Monkey Vine / Monkey Rope</b> <i>(Parsonsia straminea)</i>	Autumn – Winter	Medium - Major	Medium - Major	Amber	Mild flavoured honey. Underrated.
<b>Soap Wood / Red Ash / Red Myrtle</b> <i>(Alphitonia excelsa)</i>	Late Summer – Early Winter	Medium (Can be a solid producer in a good year.)	Medium	Unknown	Tangy Honey – reportedly not of an overly good quality.



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<b>Umbrella Tree / Octopus Tree</b> <i>(Schefflera actinophylla)</i>	Spring – Summer Native to Tropical Aust. & PNG.	Medium (?) – but limited info available.	Medium (Red pollen)	Unknown	Invasive to S.E. Qld. Red pollen – bees feeding on this blossom sometimes fall to the ground dazed.
<b>Wild May</b> <i>(Baeckea virgata)</i>	October – December	Minor	Medium	Dark Amber	Limited honey producer but useful for building up colonies and brood.
<b>Lilly Pilly</b> <i>(Syzygium smithii)</i> <b>Small Leafed Lilly Pilly</b> <i>(Syzygium luehmannii)</i>	Spring – Summer	Minor	Major	No Info.	Reportedly attractive to bees.
<b>Lemon-scented Myrtle</b> <i>(Backhousia citriodora)</i>	December - March	No Info.	No Info.	No Info.	Reported attractive to bees but limited information on available nectar or pollen.
<b>Suburban Gardens, Herbs and Various Grasses</b> <i>(Mellarius suburbii + sub-variety - boganus)</i>	Throughout the year	Variable	Variable	Blended Honey	Generally, a wide variety of local and introduced natives + many exotic species in local suburban gardens to keep your hives strong.
<b>EXOTICS, WEEDS &amp; FARMED SPECIES:</b>	<b>Approximate Flowering</b>	<b>Nectar</b>	<b>Pollen</b>	<b>Honey Colour</b>	<b>Notes and Honey Quality</b>
<b>Avocado</b> <i>(Persea Americana)</i>	September - November	Medium - Major	Medium	Dark	Distinctively dark with ‘buttery and molasses’ undertones.
<b>Banana</b> <i>(Musa spp.)</i>	November - May	Reportedly significant	Reportedly significant	Light – Dark	Reportedly ‘fair quality’.
<b>Brazilian Pepper Tree</b> <i>(Schinus terebinthifolius)</i>	Spring and Autumn but can flower throughout year	Medium	Medium	Medium Amber - Dark	Strong somewhat spicy flavour and aroma that is popular with some people. Invasive weed tree but otherwise provides good stores for colony growth.
<b>Citrus – Various (Orange, Lemon, Lime, Mandarin, etc., ...)</b>	July – October	Minor	Minor (Although reportedly high-quality pollen. Orange colour.)	Light Amber	First grade honey if sufficient trees for colonies to work a surplus. Orange blossom is reported to help build colony strength for some months afterwards.
<b>Jacaranda</b> <i>(Jacaranda mimosifolia)</i>	Late September – Early November	At least 2 reports of field bees working it for nectar.	Medium (Pollen is mauve.)	Unknown	Bees will usually prefer to work the flowers once they have fallen to the ground. (NB: “When the Jacaranda flowers you can head out fishing for flatheads.”)
<b>Blue Heliotrope</b> <i>(Heliotropium amplexicaule)</i>	November – March	Medium	Medium	Dark Amber	Starts light coloured and gradually darkens when stored. Over time it has a tendency to ferment to a sour tasting honey.

## ‘Honey Boy Apiaries’ Beekeeping Flora List – Sunshine Coast & Hinterland – Cooloola Coast, Queensland

<b>Lavender</b> <i>(Lanvandula spp.)</i>	December - February	Medium – Major	Major – excellent quality	White - Extra Light Amber	High quality honey.
<b>Lemon Balm</b> <i>(Melissa officinalis)</i>	December – April	Unknown	Unknown	Reportedly Light Pink	Attractive to bees
<b>Passionfruit</b> <i>(Passiflora edulis)</i>	Feb – April & July - November	No Info.	No Info.	No Info.	Limited information but reportedly good nectar & pollen supplies. Attractive to bees.
<b>Clover</b> <i>(Trifolium – Various sub-species)</i>	Late Winter – Spring – Early Summer	Medium	Major (Brown coloured.)	Extra White – Light Amber	First grade honey – mild flavoured and granulates quickly. Often used in creamed honey.
<b>Cobbler’s Pegs</b> <i>(Conyza albida)</i>	Late Summer – Early Autumn	Nil	Medium – Major	NA	Highly attractive to bees for yellow pollen. Needs optimal humidity and moisture for best pollen).
<b>Dandelion / Lion’s Tooth / Cankerwort / Royal Herb / Puff Ball</b> <i>(Taraxacum officinale)</i>	Late Winter – Early Summer	Variable	Medium (but pollen tests as having quite poor-quality protein.)	N/A	Bees will work Dandelion in a dearth but Dandelion pollen is very low in some essential amino acids so it’s generally unsuitable for brood rearing.
<b>Flat Weed / Common Cat’s Ear / False Dandelion</b> <i>(Hypochoeris radicata)</i>	Late Winter – Early Summer	Minor	Major (Bright orange.)	Light Amber	Nectar and pollen stimulate brood rearing. Yellow fat stores around the pollen cells give its beeswax a notable yellow colour.
<b>Glycine</b> <i>(Glycine javanica)</i>	February - April	Medium	Minor	Extra Light Amber	Attractive to bees. Honey of good flavour.
<b>Turnip Weed</b> <i>(Rapistrum rugosum)</i>	Spring – Autumn	Minor	Major Generally of good quality.	Light Amber	Good pollen source – helps build colony strength.
<b>Groundsel Bush</b> <i>(Baccharis halimifolia)</i>	Autumn (Invasive plant, damaging to ecosystem. Restricted under Qld law.)	Minor	Major	N/A	Bees can become obsessed by it and it can produce a surplus if there are sufficient plants in your region.

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