

## 2023 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #3a

This issue of Stahlman Notes is 8 pages long. I have been searching for plants producing pollen in the greater Raleigh area. A light came on while I did that. Most of my experience has been with collecting pollen from hives located out in the country. Franklin County for example.

There, bees are restricted to certain plants growing in areas such as river bottom locations, fields planted with crops, and wooded land. Thus, the pollen grains are uniformly brought back to the hive from a single source. The bees have less of a choice of what to gather.

Urban bees have a greater selection of plants to select pollen from. Often the choice is limited to small plantings of flowers, shrubs and trees growing in parks, yards,, and along streets. Trees offer the bees the best opportunity to gather pollen.

Those keeping bees near a city park, county park, cemetery, or arboretum will find a multitude of available plants, trees and shrubs available for bees to visit. In many areas it is feast or famine. Beekeeping in Raleigh is interesting. The downtown region composed mostly of tall buildings and developments may find little in the way of collecting much maple pollen while those that keep bees a mile or two away will have almost nothing but maple pollen being brought back to their hives. Urban areas on the other hand with lawns neatly manicured may have landscaped shrubs, some flower varieties, a garden, or community area to provide bees with opportunities to gather pollen. Then there is an area just outside the urban area where dandelions bloom, goldenrod, weeds and trees are abundant.

Pollen returned to a hive can tell beekeepers a lot about the food choices available to bees in the area around the hive.