

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**  
 Next Meeting: Monday, October 20, 2025  
 Location: **The Lamar Senior Activity Center**  
 2874 Shoal Crest Ave Austin TX 78705

**6:00 PM** Doors open. Meet, Eat and Greet  
**SPOOKY SWEET OR SAVORY TREATS**

**6:30PM** Business Meeting

**6:45PM** Guest Speaker: Dr. Ferhat Ozturk PhD  
**The Medicinal Properties of Raw Texas Honey**

**7:45PM** Door Prizes

**8:00PM** Meeting Ends

## What Does Your Hive Need for the Fall? from Eddy Munske

Summer is winding down, and the long, hot Central Texas season will soon give way to slightly cooler days. Beekeepers are hoping for strong Fall colonies with boxes full of pollen and plenty of stored honey. These hives will be rearing new fat bees to survive the long cold months. Our fall has lacked rain and sources of nectar and pollen this year. It's time for beekeepers in the Austin area to take a careful look inside their hives. Are your hives light in honey? Do they have stores of pollen? Our extended warm season means colonies stay active for much longer, but it also allows pests and diseases to thrive.

Keep a close eye on your colonies now. Every week or two, lift the lid and take note of what you see: a solid brood pattern, a steady queen, and plenty of food stores all indicate a healthy hive. Watch for signs of trouble such as patchy brood, sluggish bees, or small hive beetles scurrying across the top bars. Our most persistent threats are Varroa mites and small hive beetles, followed by wax moths.

The best way to manage these problems is with an integrated approach, using cultural and mechanical methods first, and adding chemical treatments only when needed. Once treatments are complete, reduce your entrances and make sure each colony has enough stores to carry them through winter — roughly 40 to 60 pounds of honey in the brood boxes. Austin beekeepers are fortunate not to face the deep freezes of northern climates, but keeping your bees strong in Fall will help them come through Winter. The bees will still cluster during cold snaps, but they'll fly on warm afternoons.

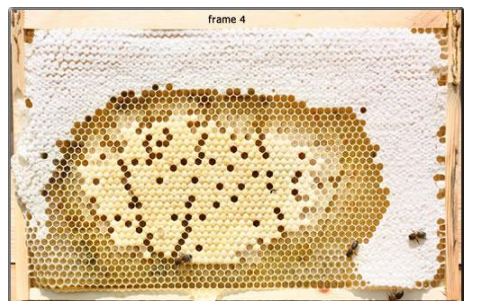
Having your last set of bees, fat with a light viral load will keep them alive, strong, and healthy long enough for the 1st wave of Spring Bees. Use this last bit of warm weather to get your hives in order. There is no substitute for a healthy Spring hive with lots of bees.



unhealthy vs healthy Fall Frame



unhealthy vs healthy Fall Frame





## Buzzing with Excitement: Upcoming Beekeeping Events Near Austin!

Hello fellow Beekeepers,

As the seasons begin to shift, it's the perfect time to brush up on your hive management skills and connect with fellow beekeepers. We've lined up a great series of events happening in and around the Austin area—don't miss out. Let's make the most of this season together. Whether you're just starting out or have years of experience, these events offer valuable tips and connections.

**DON'T MISS AABA'S OCTOBER MEETING on Monday 10/20/25,**

**Our guest speaker will be Dr. Ferjat Ozturk, Ph.D.,**

**Associate Professor of Instruction in the Department of Biology, Health, and the Environment, at UTSA.**



Dr Ozturk brings together a rare blend of scientific rigor and human-centered curiosity. His teaching and research reflect a lifelong fascination with the intricate mechanisms of life at the molecular level and how they intersect with natural and therapeutic processes.

**A particularly distinctive aspect of Dr. Ozturk's scholarship lies in his exploration of the medicinal properties of honey and its role in wound healing.** Drawing on both traditional knowledge and contemporary molecular science, he studies how honey's natural bioactive compounds influence cellular regeneration, reduce microbial infection, and promote tissue repair. His work bridges ancient remedies and modern biotechnology, aiming to identify specific molecular pathways through which natural products can support healing processes.

Have fun!  
Rachel Lam



### Scheduled Events & Festivals

Date	Event	Description / Notes	Location
October 18, 2025	<b>Pollinator Tour along Shoal Creek</b>	As part of the Roots & Wings Festival: a guided walk, talk about pollinators, make "bee hotels," honey tasting, etc. <a href="#">Shoal Creek Conservancy</a>	Seiders Springs Park, Austin
October 19, 2025	<b>Honey Fest (Austin's 4th Annual)</b>	A celebration of honey: eats, workshops, bee-themed vendors & activities <a href="#">Narcity</a>	Austin (venue to be confirmed)
October (Date TBD)	<b>Driftwood Honey Harvest Festival</b>	Celebration of pollinators and honeybees, beeswax products, plant pop-ups, etc. <a href="#">CultureMap Austin</a>	Vista Brewing / Driftwood area
October 26, 2025	<b>Un-BEE-Lievable Pollinators Festival</b>	Festival at Windsor Park Library: bee art, planting, honey tasting, educational activities <a href="#">library.austintexas.gov+1</a>	Windsor Park Branch Library, Austin
Nov. 20-22, 2025	<b>TX Annual Convention</b>	Check it out and register <a href="https://texasbeekeepers.org/">HERE:</a> <a href="https://texasbeekeepers.org/">https://texasbeekeepers.org/</a>	Waco Convention Center, Waco, Texas

Check out this abbreviated article by Charlotte Anderson from Carolina Honeybees. From Taha Yasin

### Why do Honeybees Swarm in Fall?

One behavior that beekeepers are often surprised to witness is bees swarming in Fall. Finding a swarm can be an exciting time for beekeepers but it is not always a welcome sight. If you see a bee swarm in August or later, it means they are taking on a risky adventure. Late season swarms have a reduced chance of surviving through Winter.

#### Dangers of Fall Swarms

There are several reasons that a late season bee swarm may not be a great opportunity for the colonies involved or the beekeeper.

- fast approaching months of cold weather
- lessening food resources
- need to get a new queen mated
- rearing more workers before cold

#### Risk to the Mother Colony

If the Fall swarm came out of one of your own hives, that hive too is now at risk. The mother hive must make a new queen from queen cells left behind. Their survival depends on her being able to leave the hive and the queen bee mates with drones – returning to fulfill her role as queen. This needs to be completed in time to rebuild their colony's population and replace lost workers.

Swarming workers leave with full honey stomachs so those food resources must be replaced for the mother hive before Winter arrives.

#### Can the Bees Get Ready for Winter?

As the days grow shorter and cooler, it will become more difficult for the bees to collect needed hive resources. They do not have as many hours foraging when the temperatures are warm enough for flight.

Winter food must be stored and in most cases (for a new swarm colony) – the bees must draw comb.

For the actual foundation or structure of the hive thousands of hexagonal honeycomb cells must be built.

While most locations do have Fall flowers that feed bees, the nectar availability may be spotty or nonexistent.

In some cases, the older mated queen leaves with a swarm. But the shorter days signals a time when queens tend to slow egg laying.

While the colony needs many new workers to help get all the work done.

Even in the perfect situation where the beekeeper feeds the new swarm – there is a lot of work to do. Can the swarm build up enough to survive? In many cases, it will not.

#### Why do Colonies Swarm Late in the Season?

Well, do we really know why bees do anything? There are still many questions regarding bees. Bee researchers are not certain why colonies throw Fall swarms. But, these Fall swarms are different from the reproductive Spring prime swarms and often much smaller. We still have so much to learn about honeybee behavior.



## Pumpkin Honey Muffins

Makes: 12 muffins

Prep time: 10 minutes

Bake time: 20–22 minutes

### Ingredients

- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour (or half whole wheat for extra flavor)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon nutmeg
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon ginger (optional:  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp cloves or allspice for extra spice)
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup pure pumpkin purée
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup melted butter (or coconut oil, or neutral oil)
- 2 large eggs
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk (dairy or plant-based)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Optional add-ins:

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped nuts (pecans or walnuts)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chocolate chips or dried cranberries

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners or grease lightly.
2. Mix dry ingredients: In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and spices.
3. Mix wet ingredients: In a large bowl, whisk pumpkin purée, honey, melted butter, eggs, milk, and vanilla until smooth.
4. Combine: Gently stir dry ingredients into wet until just combined — don't overmix. Fold in nuts or chocolate if using.
5. Bake: Divide batter evenly into muffin cups. Bake 20–22 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
6. Cool: Let muffins cool in the pan for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack.

### Tips

- For extra moisture, add 2 tablespoons of applesauce or Greek yogurt to the wet mix.

# October Foraging in Central Texas

By Ellisa Sexton

As the long Texas summer winds down, our landscapes begin a quiet transition. Many of the high-summer bloomers have faded, but October still holds a vital forage window for bees and other pollinators. In fact, fall nectar and pollen sources are especially critical — colonies are building stores, and native bees are preparing for cooler months. Below is a look at what plants are still in bloom in Central Texas in October, and how gardeners and naturalists can help

October is a time when bee foraging flowers become scarce. The few that *are* in bloom tend to receive heavy attention from a variety of bees (solitary bees, bumble bees, honeybees). For native and specialist bees, October blooms may be among the last chances to collect pollen before nesting wraps up.

A local honey-flow calendar for Central Texas confirms [goldenrod](#) and [broomweed](#) are among the primary honey-bearing plants during October. ([learningbeekeeping.com](#)). Also, beekeeping guides in the region list [cockle burr](#) (*Xanthium canadense*) as a pollen source active in September–October. ([atxbees.org](#)). Here are some of the most reliable native and adapted plants that tend to draw bees in October around Austin and the surrounding Hill Country.



**Gregg's Mistflower** (*Conoclinium greggii*)

**Bloom Color / Form:** Lavender-blue clusters

**Notes & Pollinator Value:** A standout fall nectar source. It blooms into October and is often dubbed a “magnet” for bees and butterflies. ([txsmartscape.com](#))



**Fall Aster / Aromatic Aster** (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*)

**Bloom Color / Form:** Lavender-pink daisy shapes

**Notes & Pollinator Value:** One of the last asters to bloom; supports bees and butterflies in late season. ([Central Texas Gardener](#))



**Goldenrod** (*Solidago* spp.)

**Bloom Color / Form:** Golden yellow spiky clusters

**Notes & Pollinator Value:** A traditional late-season resource. Though often maligned for allergies, goldenrods are important for bees in fall. ([Texas Land Conservancy](#))



**Frostweed** (*Verbesina virginica*)

**Bloom Color / Form:** White, showy blossoms

**Notes & Pollinator Value:** Blooms in late summer into fall; its name comes from the “frost flower” ice formations it sometimes produces. ([Native Plant Society of Texas](#))



**Bee-brush / Woolly Bee Bush** (*Aloysia / Alyssia / related genera*)

**Bloom Color / Form:** Small white to fragrant blooms

**Notes & Pollinator Value:** One of the native shrubs that continues to flower into fall and is recommended in local plant lists. ([Central Texas Gardener](#))



**Cowpen Daisy** (*Verbesina encelioides*)

**Bloom Color / Form:** Blue / violet small daisy blooms

**Notes & Pollinator Value:** Its bloom period extends into fall and offers bee forage. ([Native Plant Society of Texas](#))



**Pavonia** (Texas swamp-mallow / rock rose, *Pavonia*

*lasiopetala*) **Bloom Color / Form:** Pink to red mallow-type flowers

**Notes & Pollinator Value:** It blooms into the fall months and is attractive to pollinators. . ([Wikipedia](#))

