



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Next Meeting: Monday, September 18, 2025

Location: **The Lamar Senior Activity Center**  
**2874 Shoal Crest Ave Austin TX 78705**

**6:00 PM** Doors open. Meet, Eat and Greet

**Back to School Lunchbox Treats**

**6:30PM** Business Meeting

**6:45PM** Guest Speaker: Omar Martinez speaking about  
 Queens: Breeding and Characteristics

**7:45PM** Door Prizes

**8:00PM** Meeting Ends

## Is Fall a Good Time to ReQueen Your Colony?

from Elissa Sexton

As seasoned and novice beekeepers alike know, requeening is one of the most important hive management tasks we perform. A strong, healthy queen is the heart of a productive colony—but when is the best time to introduce a new monarch?

While **spring** requeening is more common, an increasing number of beekeepers are seeing the **advantages of requeening in the fall**.

Let's explore why fall requeening might be the right move for your apiary this year.

Over time, a queen's egg-laying ability diminishes. Older queens may also produce weaker pheromones, leading to a less cohesive colony and increased risk of swarming. Requeening helps maintain a strong brood pattern, reduce aggression, and improve colony productivity and overwintering success.

### The Case for Fall Requeening



#### Better Acceptance Rates

In the fall, nectar flows slow down, and the colony's population naturally declines. With fewer young bees to care for brood, and less foraging excitement, colonies tend to be **less defensive** and more receptive to a new queen.



#### Healthier Colonies Going into Winter

A young, vigorous fall queen ensures a **solid cluster of winter bees**—those long-lived bees that will keep the colony warm until spring. This can greatly improve winter survival rates.



#### Early Spring Buildup

When you requeen in the fall, your colony starts the spring season with a **mature, proven queen** ready to lay. No delays. No risk of a failed early season requeening attempt. Just strong buildup right when you need it.

### Final Buzz

Fall requeening might not be the traditional route, but it offers significant benefits for colony strength and winter survival. If you've never tried it before, consider requeening at least one of your hives this fall and compare outcomes in the spring. You might just find your bees—and your honey yields—thanking you.

# September Flora in Austin, Texas: A Vital Time for Honeybees

From Rachael Lam

As summer gives way to fall, September marks a transitional period for flora in Austin, Texas. While the scorching heat begins to subside, the natural landscape responds with a second wave of blooming plants, many of which are crucial to the survival of local pollinators, especially honeybees. This month is a key moment in the foraging calendar for bees as they work to gather nectar and pollen before winter slows their activity.



In Central Texas, native and adapted plants begin to flourish once again with the return of milder temperatures and, occasionally, late summer rains. **Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*)**, is one of the standout contributors to the September nectar flow. This tall, resilient wildflower thrives in shady areas and along creek sides, offering rich nectar to honeybees. Its clusters of small white flowers bloom prolifically this month, often becoming a central stop for foragers.



**Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)**, although often misunderstood and unfairly blamed for allergies caused by ragweed, is another vital plant blooming in September. It produces abundant nectar and pollen, which honeybees eagerly collect. Its bright yellow blooms can be seen lining roadsides and open fields, providing a key resource as other summer flowers fade.



**Texas Lantana (*Lantana urticoides*)** Bursting with color, this rugged native shrub blooms heavily through August. Bees flock to its clusters of flowers, which offer both nectar and pollen, and it's also a favorite of butterflies and hummingbirds.



**Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*)** is also in full bloom during this time. This towering native sunflower opens its bright yellow blossoms just as bees are preparing for the end of their most active season. It provides both nectar and pollen, making it a valuable dual resource for colonies building up winter stores.



A significant non-native contributor to the September floral landscape is the **Crepe Myrtle**. Though it begins blooming earlier in summer, many varieties continue to flower into September, especially if they've been pruned or benefited from late rainfall. Its blossoms are a favorite of honeybees, offering steady nectar production when native options are sparse.



Another noteworthy plant is the **Kidneywood Tree (*Eysenhardtia texana*)**, a lesser-known native that produces fragrant white flowers and attracts a wide array of pollinators. Though its bloom is less predictable, in years when conditions align, it can provide a significant nectar source during this transitional month.

In urban gardens and landscapes, cultivated herbs like **Basil, Mint, and Oregano** may still be flowering in September if allowed to bolt. These herbs produce small but highly attractive flowers for honeybees, especially in areas where natural foraging options are limited. Gardeners who resist trimming back herbs too early can play an important role in supporting local pollinators.

September may not be the peak of wildflower season in Central Texas, but for honeybees, it is a crucial period of gathering and preparation. The flora of this month provides a last burst of abundance before the quiet of winter.

Bees are not only collecting food but also preparing their hives for the cooler months ahead. The availability of reliable nectar and pollen sources during this time can influence a colony's overwintering success. For beekeepers and gardeners in Austin, supporting September bloomers—whether through habitat preservation, planting native species, or avoiding pesticides—can make a meaningful difference in the health of local bee populations.



## 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, connections, and a lot of fun!

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A quick reminder that the **Brazos Valley Bee School** is slated for next weekend, **September 13, 2025**, in Bryan, TX.

The theme of the school is, "Start Strong, Stay Strong" and focuses on getting off to a good strong start with education and preparation, and then maintaining and networking, while growing your apiary.

We will have online and day of walk-in registration along with morning coffee and donuts, as well as home baked snacks in the afternoon!

To register for the school, please visit: <https://bvbeeks.org/events/bee-school/>

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# 2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

## November 20-22, 2025

### Breeding for Better Bees in Texas



#### WACO CONVENTION CENTER

100 Washington Avenue  
Waco, TX 76701

#### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Cory Stevens  
Sue Cobey

Check it out and register HERE: <https://texasbeekeepers.org/>

## How to Prepare Your Hives in September from Eddy Monske

September settles in with its own rhythm in Central Texas—sometimes hot, but with hints that the long summer is starting to yield. For your honeybees, this is a transitional month. They've survived the stress of summer dearth, and now you're looking ahead to the fall nectar flow and, just beyond it, the winter months. September is about setting the stage—quiet, methodical, and deliberate. It is the bridge between scarcity and abundance, so check carefully:

\*Do your colonies still have enough food reserves to carry them until the fall bloom really takes off? If not, this is the moment to step in with supplemental feeding. A 2:1 sugar syrup mix (two parts sugar to one part water) helps bees store resources quickly. A protein patty might be useful if pollen is scarce.

\* You're not looking for explosive growth now, but for balance: steady brood patterns, a queen still laying, and no signs of pests taking over. September in Austin is prime time for varroa mites to wreak havoc, so you pull out your sticky boards or sugar-roll kits and run a mite count. If the numbers are high, you treat right away—strong fall colonies depend on healthy winter bees being raised now.

\* The worst of the triple-digit heat is *usually* past, so make sure hives are tilted forward slightly to drain rainwater, and that entrances are clear of debris. Consider reducing entrances to help guard against robbing, which can become a serious problem when nectar sources run thin before the fall bloom.

\* Take care of equipment. Replace any rotted boxes or holes. Paint the equipment before it gets too late. Seal up any gaps between boxes. A small leak of air can be the difference between your bees making it to Spring.

Your job now is to steady them through the transition: feed if necessary, control mites, and make sure each colony is queen-right and strong. What you do now will echo in the strength of your hives come spring.

## Back to School Lunchbox Treats

### Savory Lunchbox Ideas

1. **Honey-Mustard Chicken Wraps**
  - Shred cooked chicken breast, toss with a mix of honey + Dijon mustard, layer with lettuce and thinly sliced apples, then roll in a whole wheat tortilla.
  - Slice into pinwheels for bite-size pieces.
2. **Turkey, Cheese & Honey Sandwich**
  - Spread whole grain bread with a light swipe of honey and grainy mustard.
  - Add sliced turkey, cheddar, and spinach.
  - The honey adds a subtle sweetness that pairs well with savory meats.

### Snacky & Sweet Lunchbox Additions

1. **Honey Energy Bites**
  - Mix rolled oats, peanut butter (or almond butter), honey, flaxseed, and mini chocolate chips.
  - Roll into small balls and refrigerate.
2. **Fruit & Honey Yogurt Dip**
  - Blend Greek yogurt with honey, a dash of cinnamon, and vanilla.
  - Pack with apple slices, grapes, or strawberries for dipping.
3. **Honey Nut Granola Bars**
  - Combine oats, chopped nuts, dried fruit, and seeds.
  - Heat honey and nut butter, stir into the mix, press into a pan, and chill before slicing.
  - Wrap individually for grab-and-go.
4. **Banana & Honey Muffins**
  - Bake whole wheat muffins sweetened with ripe bananas and honey.
  - Add walnuts or dark chocolate chips for extra interest.

### Treat-Style Additions

- **Honey-Sesame Popcorn** – Drizzle popped corn with a warm honey + sesame oil glaze, sprinkle sesame seeds.
- **Honey-Cinnamon Apple Chips** – Slice apples thin, brush lightly with honey + cinnamon, bake low and slow until crisp.
- **Honey Lemon Shortbread Bites** – Small buttery cookies sweetened with honey and brightened with lemon zest.