

# What's the Buzz?

with Deez L'Town Beez



*Hello friends and fellow keepers!*

## Early Bloom Report in SOMD What Our Bees Are Foraging Right Now

As winter loosens its grip here in Southern Maryland, the landscape may still look sleepy to us — but the bees know better. The first waves of early bloom are quietly unfolding, and our colonies are taking full advantage of every warm afternoon. These early nectar and pollen sources are critical. They fuel brood production, stimulate population growth, and help colonies rebuild after winter. Let's take a look at what's currently feeding our bees.

**Maples** - Red maples are often the first major pollen source of the year. If you've noticed a subtle red haze in the treetops, that's likely maple bloom. While they don't produce heavy nectar flows, maples provide abundant early pollen, a protein powerhouse that jumpstarts brood rearing. Colonies bringing in maple pollen often show noticeable increases in egg laying shortly after.

**Willows** - Willows are another early-season hero. Their fuzzy catkins are loaded with both nectar and bright yellow pollen. On warm days, you may see bees working them heavily. Willows can significantly support colony build-up before fruit trees begin to bloom.

**Henbit** - Also called Purple Dead nettle. Often dismissed as a weed, henbit is actually a gift to pollinators. This low-growing purple wildflower carpets fields and roadsides in early spring. It provides both nectar and pollen during a time when options are still limited. Bees will work henbit steadily on mild days.

**Crocus** - One of the first garden flowers to appear, crocus offers a welcome splash of color and forage. Though not a major nectar source, crocus provides valuable early pollen for backyard colonies, especially in residential areas.

**Dandelion** - Love them or hate them, dandelions are an important early nectar and pollen source. They bloom abundantly and reliably, helping bridge the gap between early trees and larger spring flows. Those bright yellow pollen loads on returning bees? Often dandelion.



### Why Early Blooms Matter



This early forage directly impacts how strong a colony will be heading into the main spring nectar flow. More pollen means more brood. More brood means more worker bees. And more worker bees mean better honey production and stronger pollination. It's also why we encourage planting and protecting early bloom sources whenever possible. These first flowers aren't just pretty, they're survival fuel.

As temperatures continue to rise, we'll soon see fruit trees, tulip poplars, and clover joining the party. For now, though, our bees are grateful for every maple bud, willow catkin, and patch of henbit they can find.

Spring has officially begun — at least in the hive

## STUFF YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO KNOW



[Building Your Equipment Class](#)  
@ Deez Apiary, Leonardtown  
March 1st, 3pm-5pm



[ASMB Beginner Beekeeping 101 Class](#)  
March 7th & 14th, 1230-430pm



[The Great Big Home Show @ Capital Clubhouse, Waldorf](#)  
March 28th & 29th, 10am-5pm

### How to Help Bees This Spring (Even Without a Hive)

You don't need to own a hive to make a real difference for honey bees and other pollinators here in Southern Maryland. In fact, small actions taken by many people can create powerful change.

Early spring is one of the most critical times of year for bees. Colonies are rebuilding after winter, queens are increasing egg production, and foragers are searching for reliable pollen and nectar sources. What they find, or don't find, in March and April can determine how strong they'll be for the rest of the season.

#### Here are simple, meaningful ways you can help:

- [Don't spray blooming weeds](#)
- [Plant early bloomers](#)
- [Leave dandelions alone](#)
- [Provide shallow water](#)
- [Support your local beekeeper](#)
- [Adopt-A-Hive \(click to learn more\)](#)

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