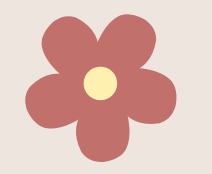
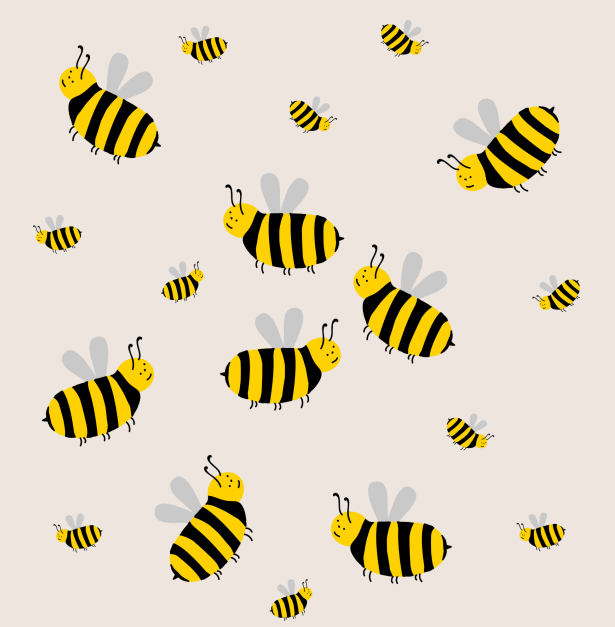
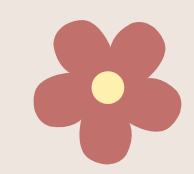




JUNE GAP

J. Slaughter

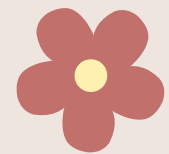




Introduction

The "**June gap**" (or June dearth) is a period in early summer when **available nectar and pollen levels drop significantly**, creating a temporary food shortage for honey bees. It typically occurs in June across parts of the Northern Hemisphere when spring flowers and tree blossoms fade away but summer wildflowers have not yet fully bloomed

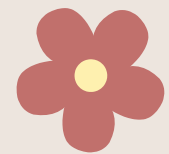




Issue

- **Peak Colony Populations:** The shortage happens exactly when the queen is laying eggs prolifically and hive populations are reaching their annual peak.
- **High Food Demand:** Thousands of hungry larvae and young worker bees require an enormous amount of sustenance at a time when incoming food hits a standstill.





Problem

- **Starvation:** Highly populated, productive hives can burn through their entire existing honey reserves in just a few days.
- **Brood Cannibalization:** If stores run out completely, desperate bees may cannibalize their own brood to survive.
- **Irritable Behavior:** Bees turn from busy, docile foragers into grumpy, defensive "layabouts" because they have nothing to collect.





Managing the Gap

Check Hives: Frequently assess the physical weight of the hive or look inside the brood box to check if at least 2 to 3 frames are full of stored food.

Supplemental Feeding: If stores are dangerously low, step in with a rapid feeder containing summer sugar syrup (a 1:1 ratio of white sugar to water) or fondant.

Water Stations: Because foraging goes down, bees need easy access to clean water in shallow dishes with pebbles or twigs to land on

Leave Spring Honey: Leave a safety cushion so bees don't starve before the summer flow kicks in.





Space Management

Space management in beekeeping is the intentional balancing of hive volume to match a colony's seasonal growth, resource inflow, and temperature regulation needs. Managing hive space properly is critical because **too little space triggers swarming**, while **too much space leaves the hive vulnerable to pests and heat loss.**





Planning

Plant for Late Bloomers: Support your bees naturally by sowing forage that flowers during this specific window, such as bee balm, echinacea, and black-eyed susans.

