Beekeeping Calendar for Osceola County, Florida

Month	Task	Blooming Nectar Plants
January	1) Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) – also supply pollen supplements if necessary. 2) Monitor for Nosema diseases (*Nosema ceranae* most common). 3) Repair/paint old equipment 4) Citrus blooms in March. Make sure your colonies are ready. Talk with your growers about their pesticide use habits.	Sand Pine, Maple, Willow
February	1) Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) 2) Monitor for Nosema diseases. 3) Citrus blooms in March. Make sure your colonies are ready. Talk with your growers about their pesticide use habits.	Plum, Cherry, Oak, Walter Viburnum, Sweet Clover, Blueberry, Fetterbush, Sand Pine, Maple, Willow
March	1) Colony populations begin to grow! Add supers and/or control swarming as necessary. 3) Make nucs/splits 4) Citrus blooms in March. Make sure your colonies are ready. Talk with your growers about their pesticide use habits.	Citrus, Spanish Needle, Willow, Plum, Cherry, Oak, Walter Viburnum, Sweet Clover, Blueberry, Fetterbush, Spiderwort, Blackberry, Elderberry, Sweet Viburnum
April	1) Re-queen colonies if needed 2) Make splits/nucs. 3) Control Swarming 4) Add supers, the nectar flow began in March	Orange, Sweet clover, Wild Blueberry, Fetterbush, Spanish Needle, Gallberry, Dog Hobble, Palmetto, Mexican Clover, Butter Mint, Spiderwort
May	1) Continue to inspect for colony maladies but don't treat for diseases while producing honey 2) Continue swarm control 3) Super as necessary	Fetterbush, Spanish Needle, Gallberry, Dog Hobble, Palmetto, Mexican Clover, Palm, Gopher Apple, Joint Weed, Sandhill Prairie Clover, Spiderwort, Butter Mint
June	1) Remove and process honey - main flow stops 2) Varroa populations begin to grow – monitor colonies closely and treat if necessary.	Gopher Apple, Joint Weed, Sandhill Prairie Clover, Spiderwort, Palmetto, Mexican Clover, Butter Mint, Dog Hobble, Cabbage Palm, Spanish Needle, Butter Mint

Month	Task	Blooming Nectar Plants
July	1) Remove and process honey - main flow stops 2) Varroa populations begin to grow – monitor colonies closely and treat if necessary.	Spanish Needle, Palmetto, Mexican Clover, Buttermint, Palm, Gopher Apple, Joint Weed, Redbay, Sandhill Prairie Clover, Partridge Pea, Primrose Willow, Spiderwort
August	1) Monitor colonies for Varroa. Last chance to treat before fall nectar flow. 2) Feed colonies if light 3) Monitor for and control small hive beetles 4) It's hot! Ensure adequate colony ventilation	Joint Weed, Sandhill Prairie Clover, Partridge Pea, Primrose Willow Spiderwort, Spanish Needle, Palmetto, Mexican Clover, Spotted Mint, Goldenrod, Vine Aster, Sumac
September	1) Monitor colonies for Varroa (see July)! 2) Add honey supers to colonies (usually if there are a lot of Brazilian Pepper nearby) 3) Monitor for Nosema diseases; treat if necessary. 4) If no nectar flow, feed colonies if light.	Primrose Willow, Spiderwort, Spanish Needle, Palmetto, Mexican Clover, Smart Weed, Brazilian Pepper, Bush Aster, Spotted Mint, Goldenrod, Vine Aster, Sumac
October November December	1) Varroa populations peak in Aug/Sept. Monitor Varroa populations closely throughout winter and treat if necessary. 2) Monitor colonies for Nosema disease; treat if necessary. 3) Monitor for and control small hive beetles 4) Feed colonies if light (colonies can starve!) However, avoid heavy feeding, as this may lead to increased Nosema problems.	**Oct:** Spanish Needle, Mexican Clover, Primrose Willow, Spotted Mint, Goldenrod, Vine Aster, Smart Weed, Bush Aster, Brazilian Pepper-significant Fall source of nectar for bees. **Nov:** Mexican Clover, Primrose Willow, Spotted Mint, Goldenrod, Vine Aster, Smart Weed, Bush Aster **Dec:** Bush Aster

Based on UF/IFAS publication ENY156 by J.D. Ellis and C.M. Zettel Nalen