

Maximizing Your Colonies for Honey Production



Jamie Ellis, PhD

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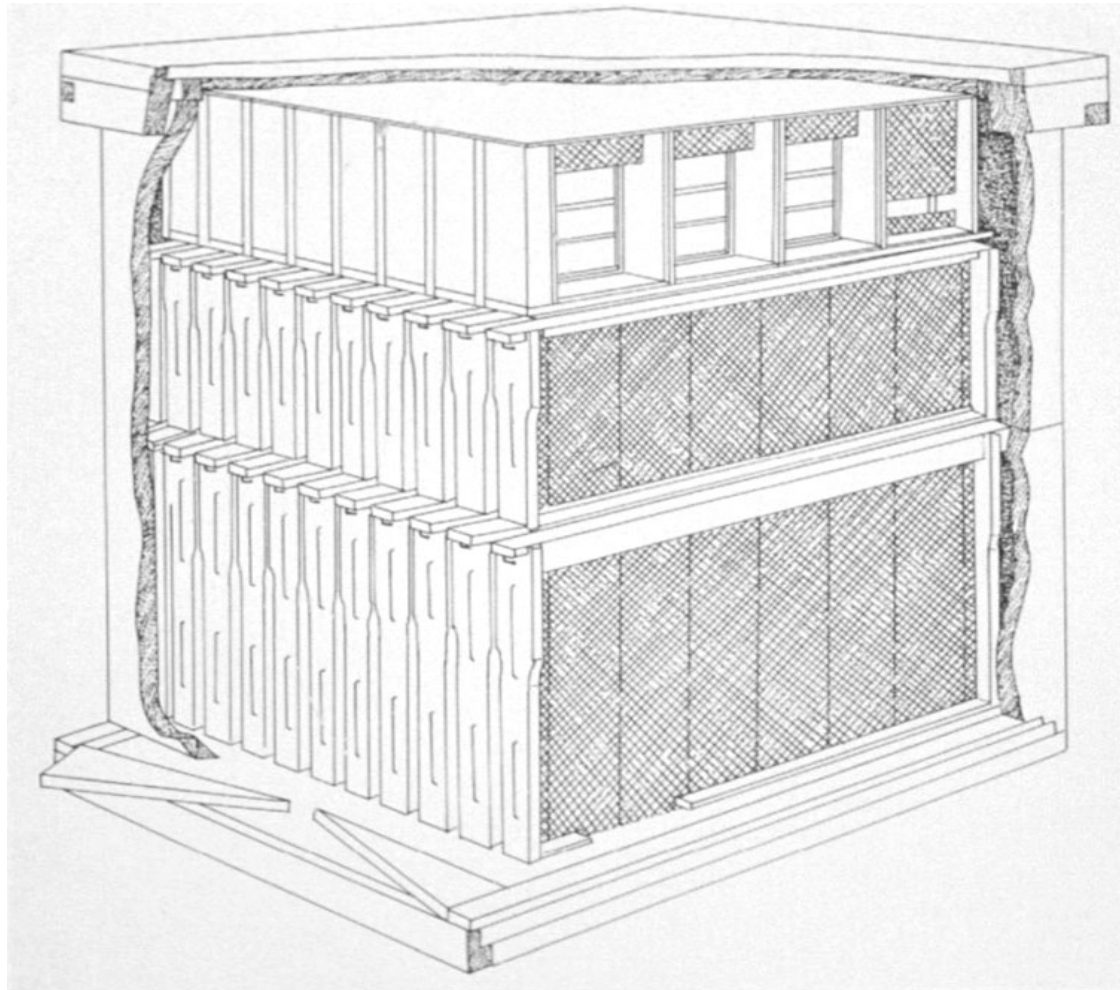
Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory



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Journal of Agricultural Research
KEITH S. DELAPLANE

THE INFLUENCE OF COLONY POPULATIONS ON HONEY
PRODUCTION¹

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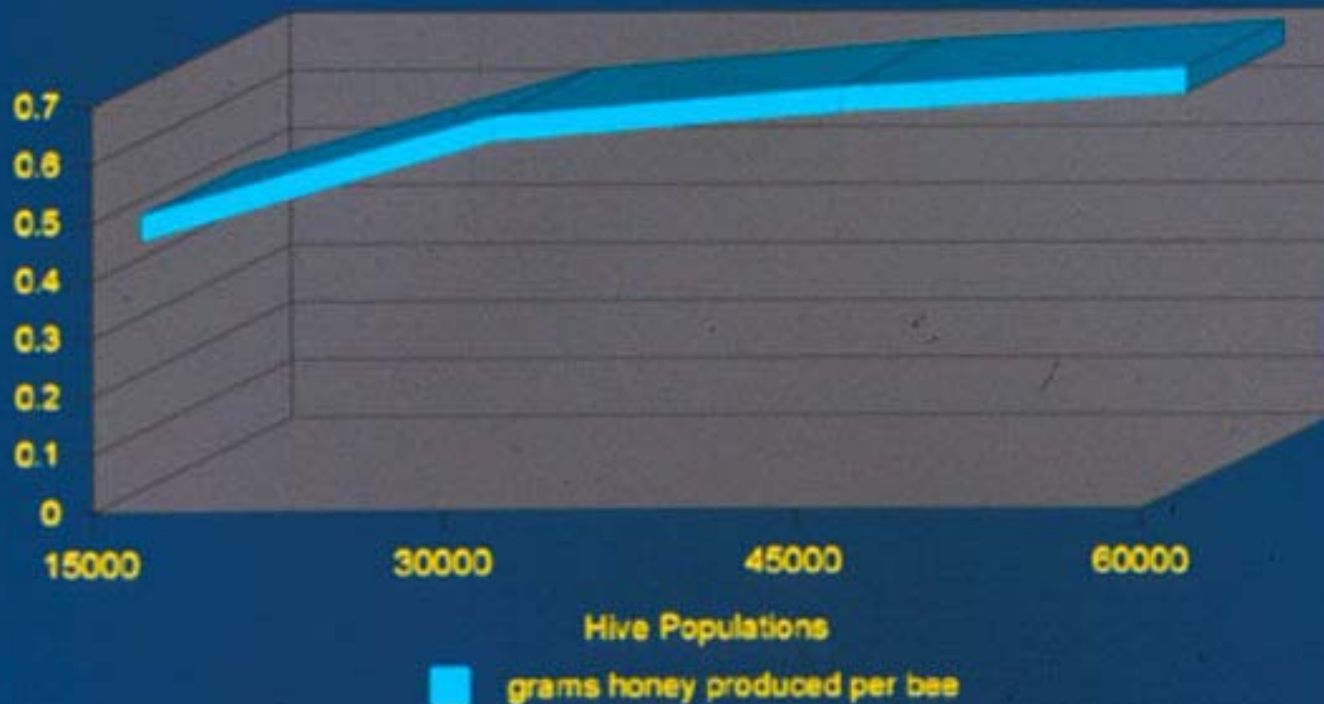
INTRODUCTION

Two ultimate objectives form the basis of the beekeeper's business, namely, the production of a crop and the conversion of that crop into money. The amount of honey produced per colony has an even greater significance in determining profits than the market price received for the honey.^{3 4}

Many factors affect the yield of colonies and yet very few usable data have been collected upon which an accurate analysis of the significance of any one factor can be based. The intensity and length

Hive Populations and Honey Production per Bee

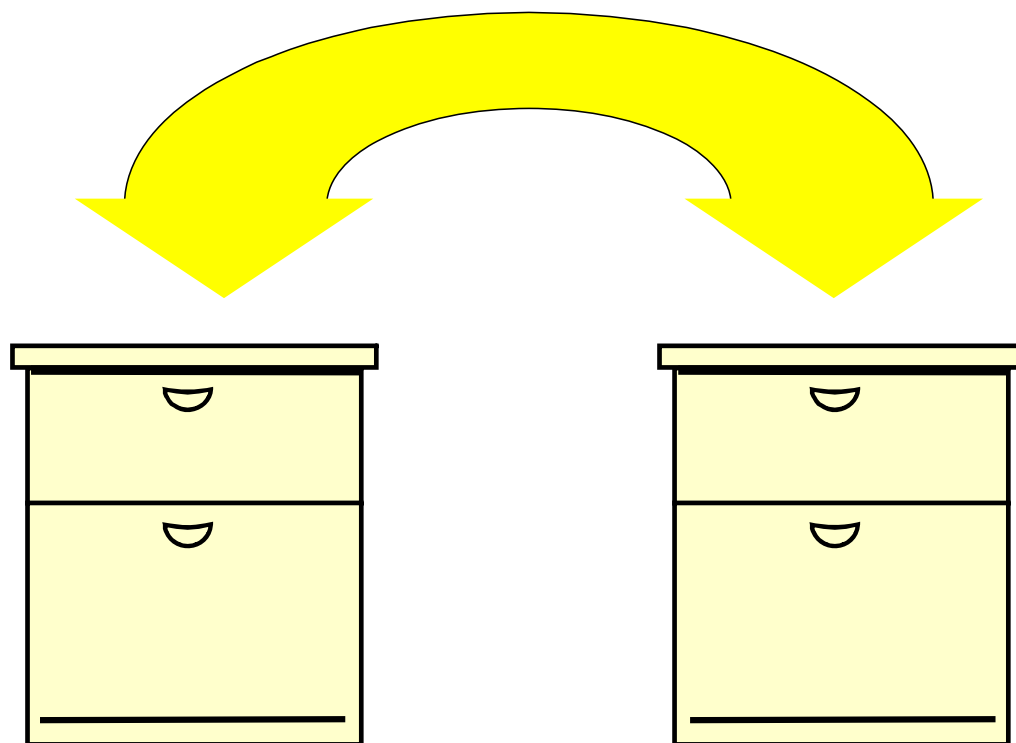
Farrar 1944

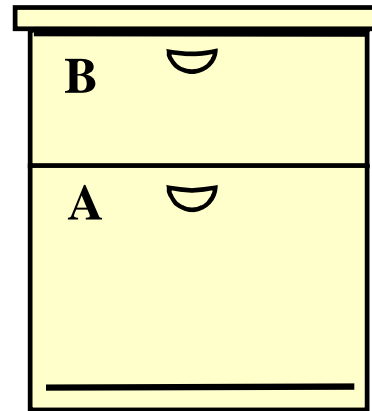
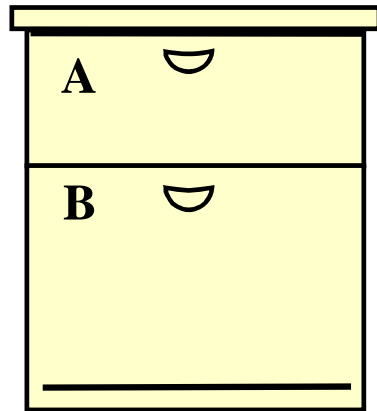


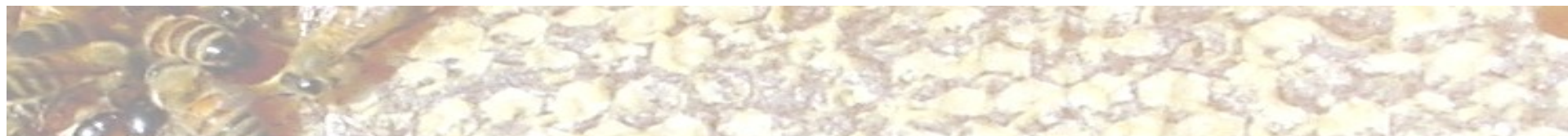








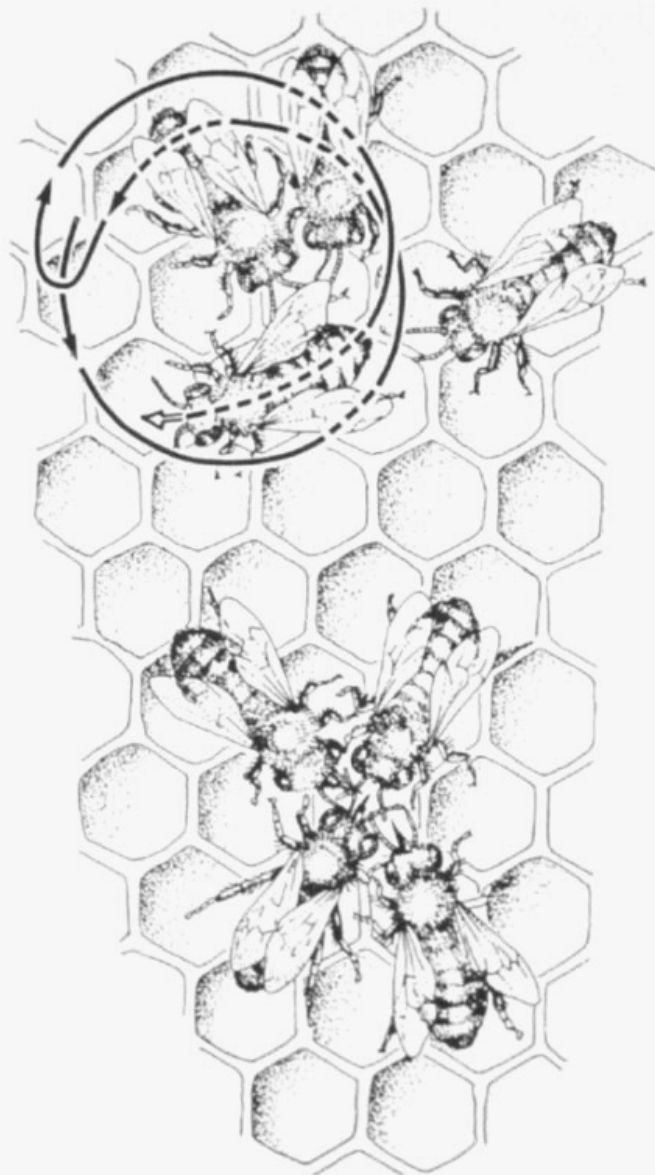


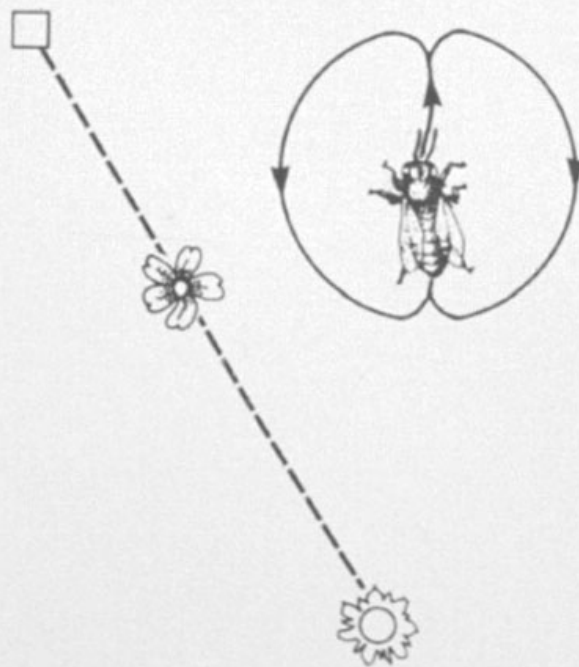
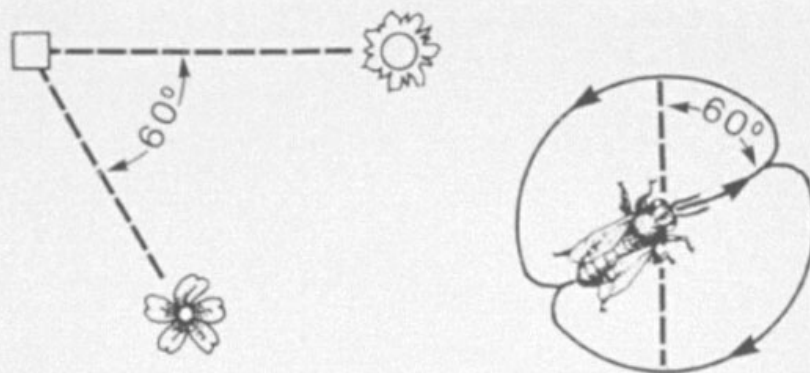


Varroa Mites



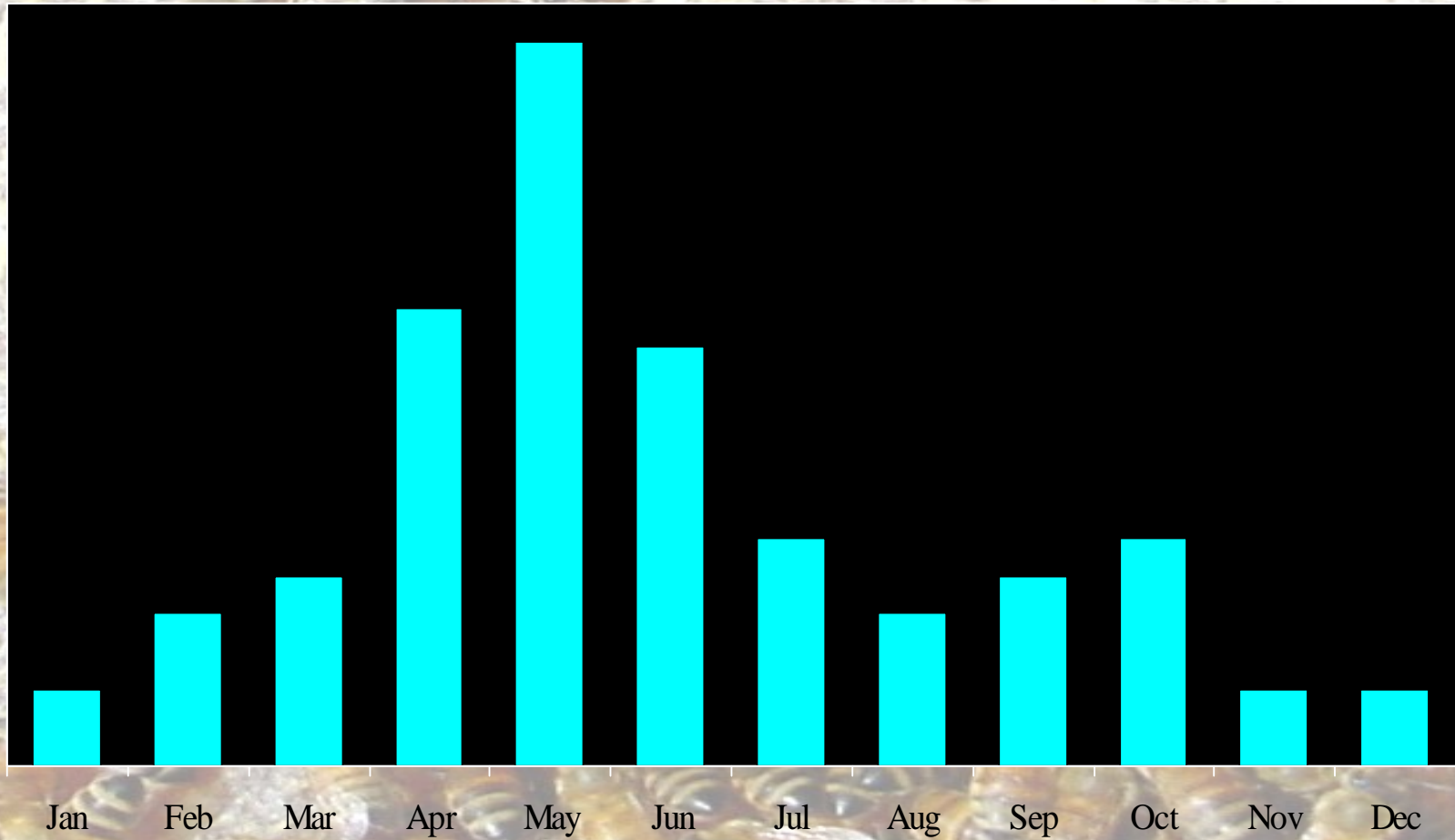




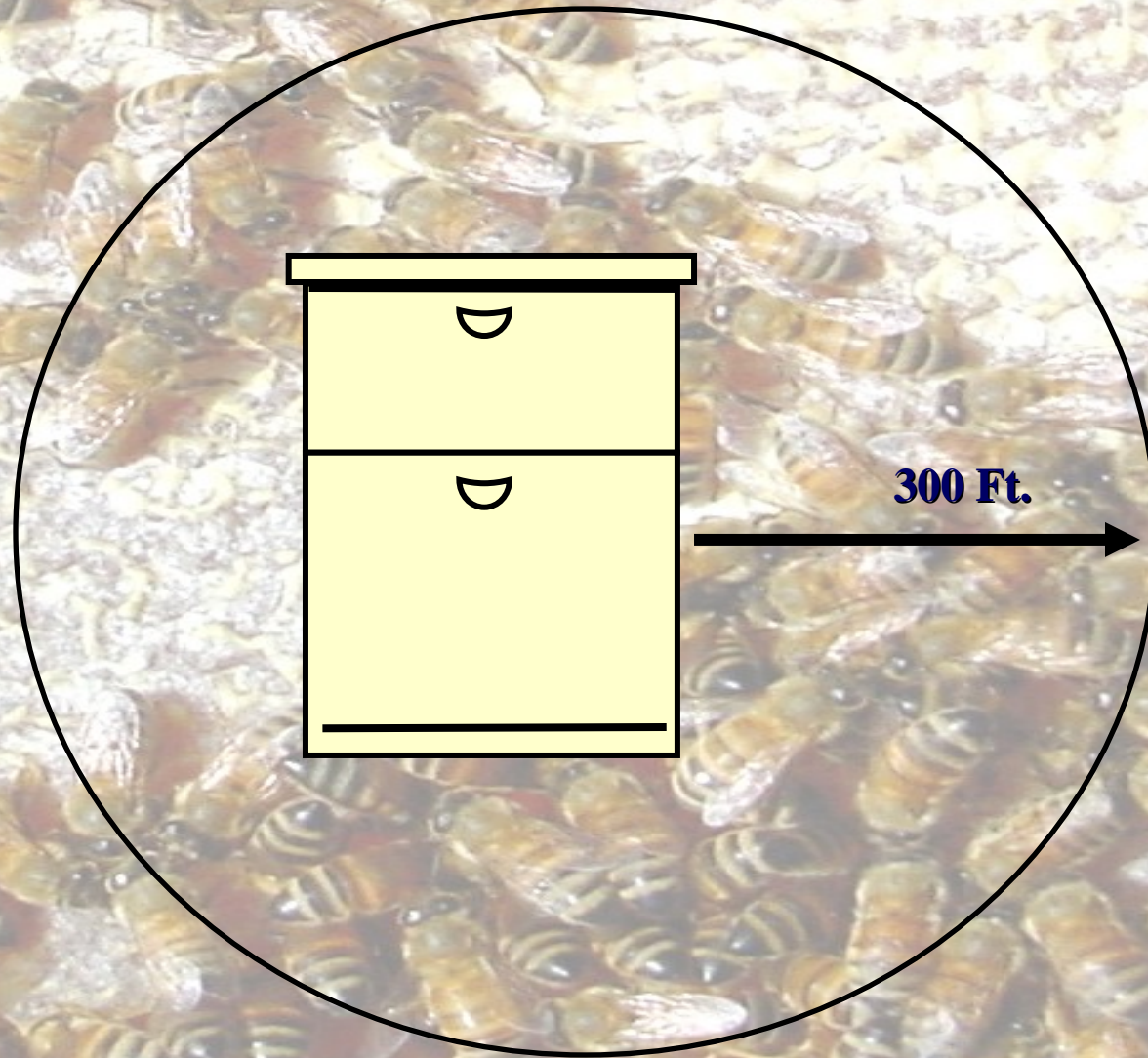


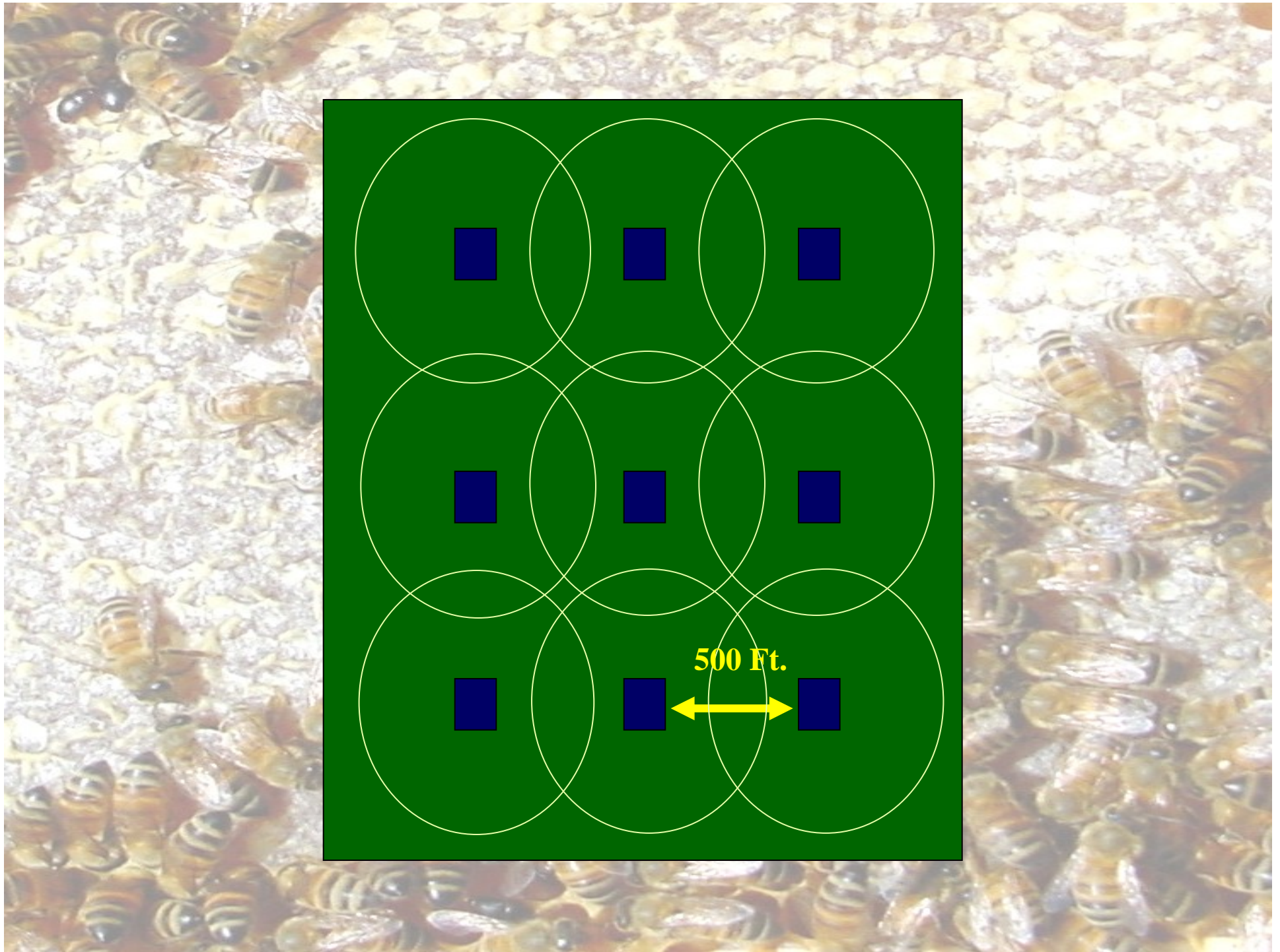
Seasonal nectar availability

plants in bloom

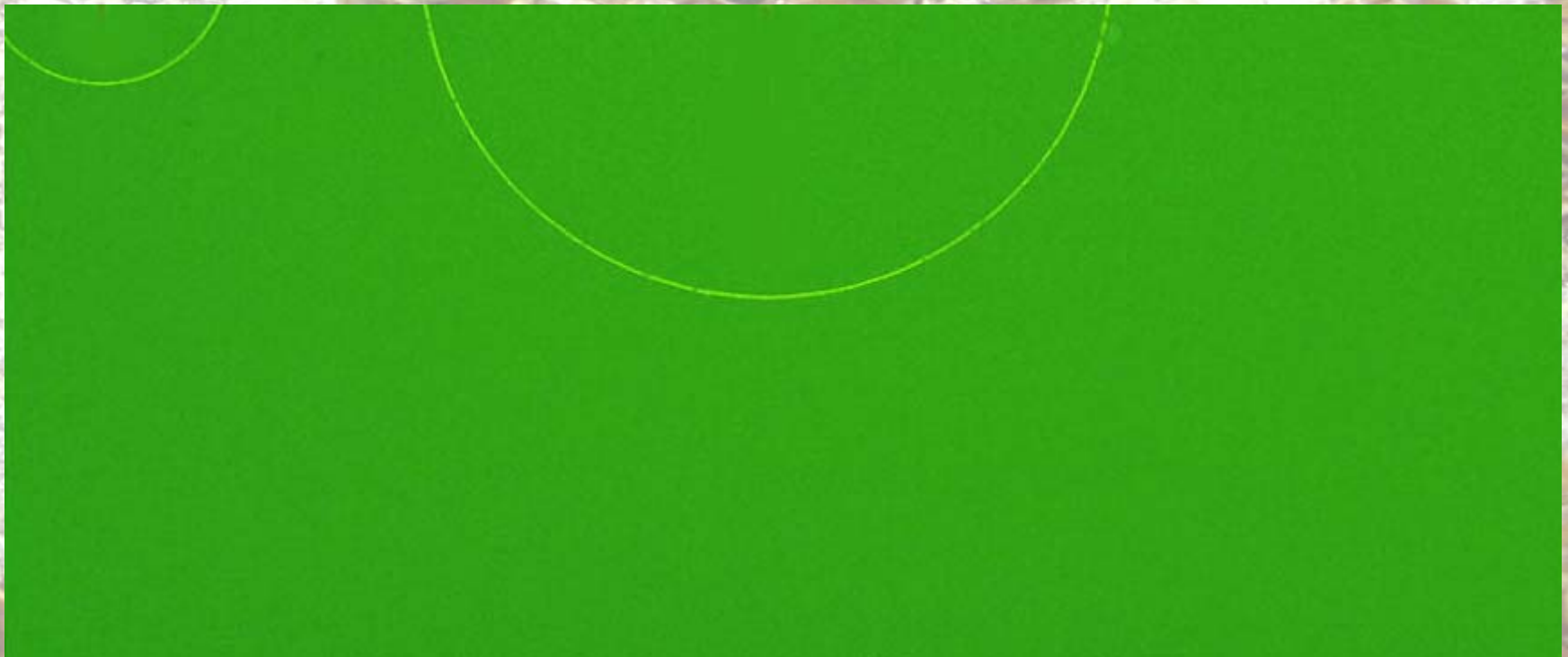


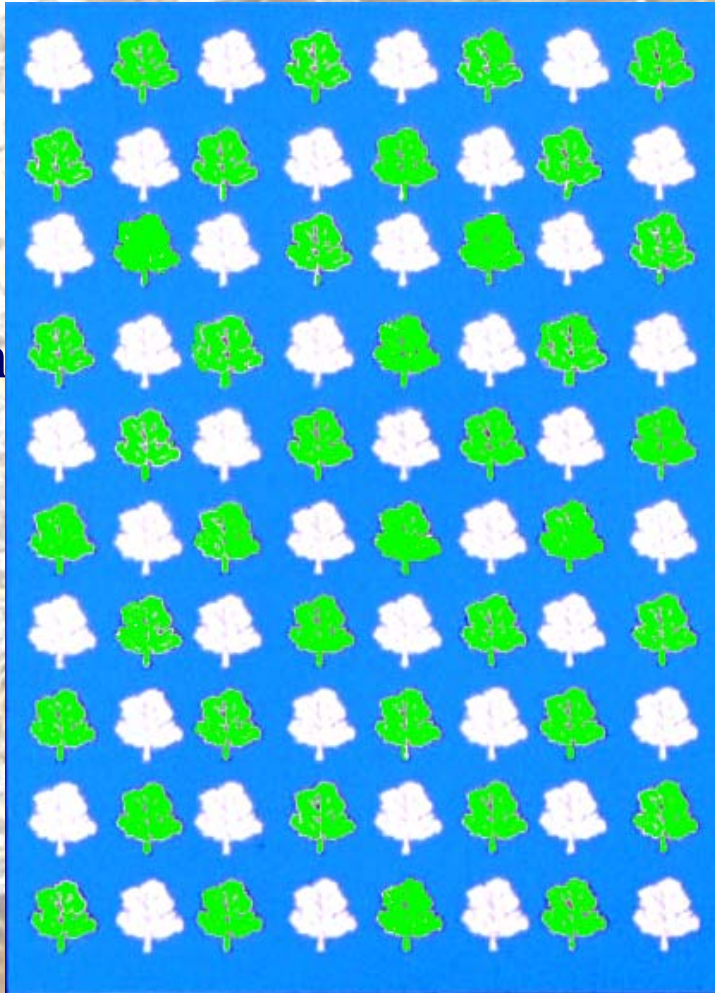
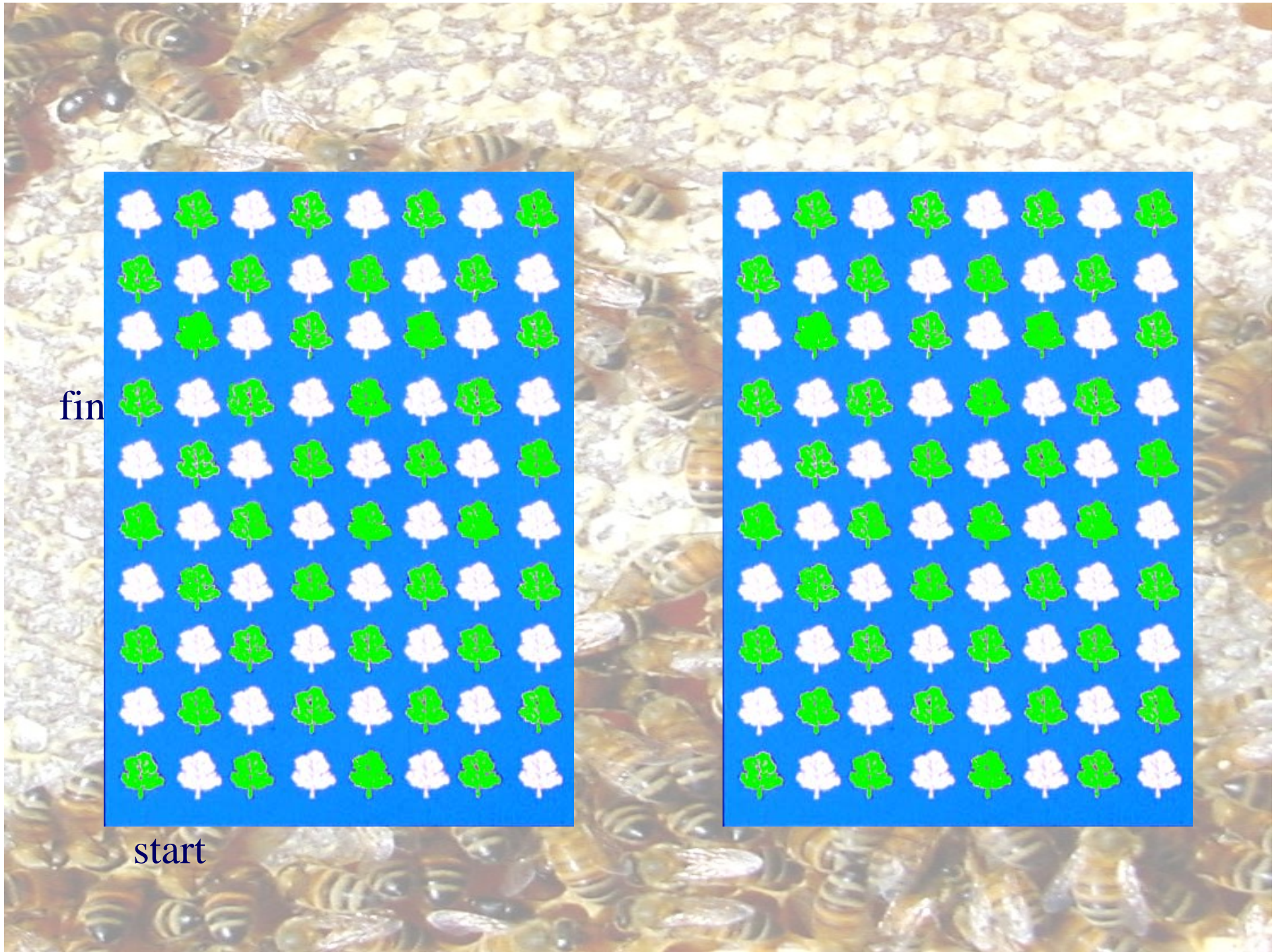
Animals will minimize foraging distances.



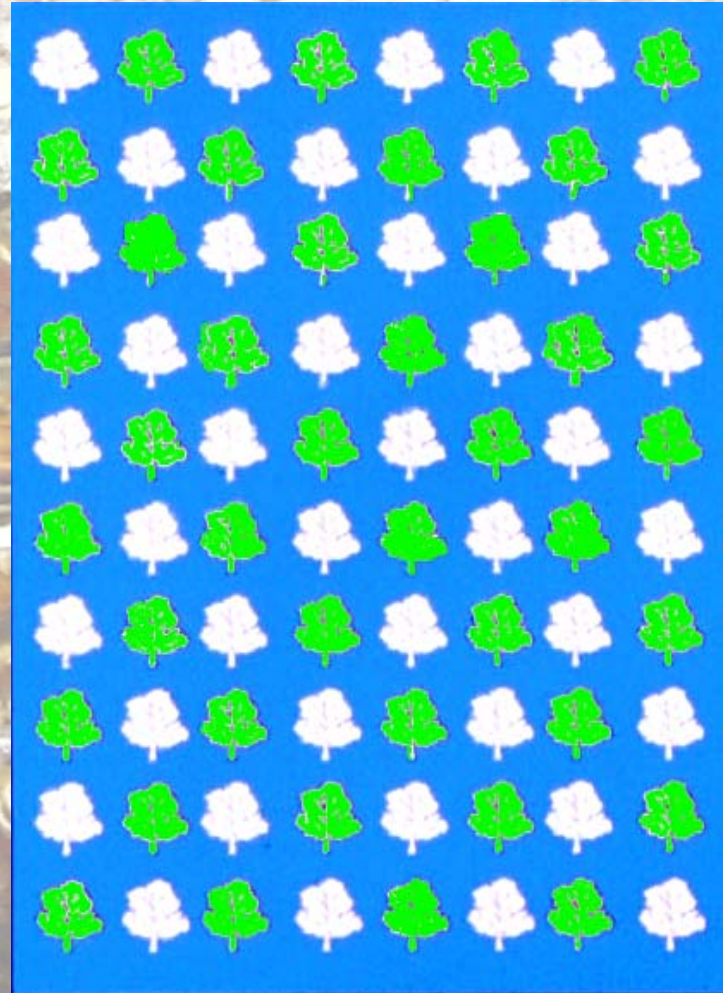


Competition increases coverage





start



fin

**Animals (especially generalists)
will forage at the richest
available patches.**













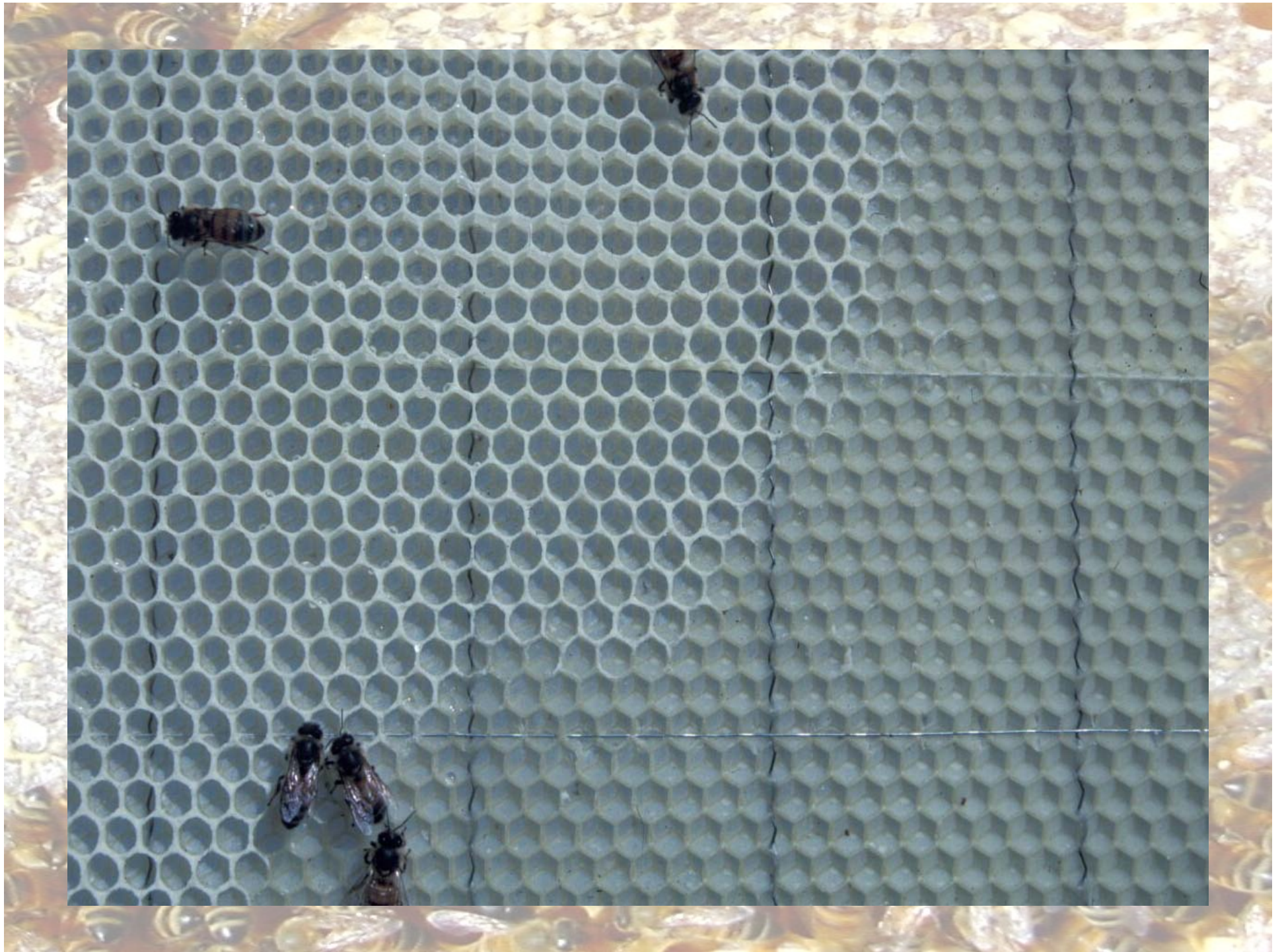








yellow jessamine = dead queen cells
+ summer titi and mountain laurel



Foraging regulation

Forager collects nectar

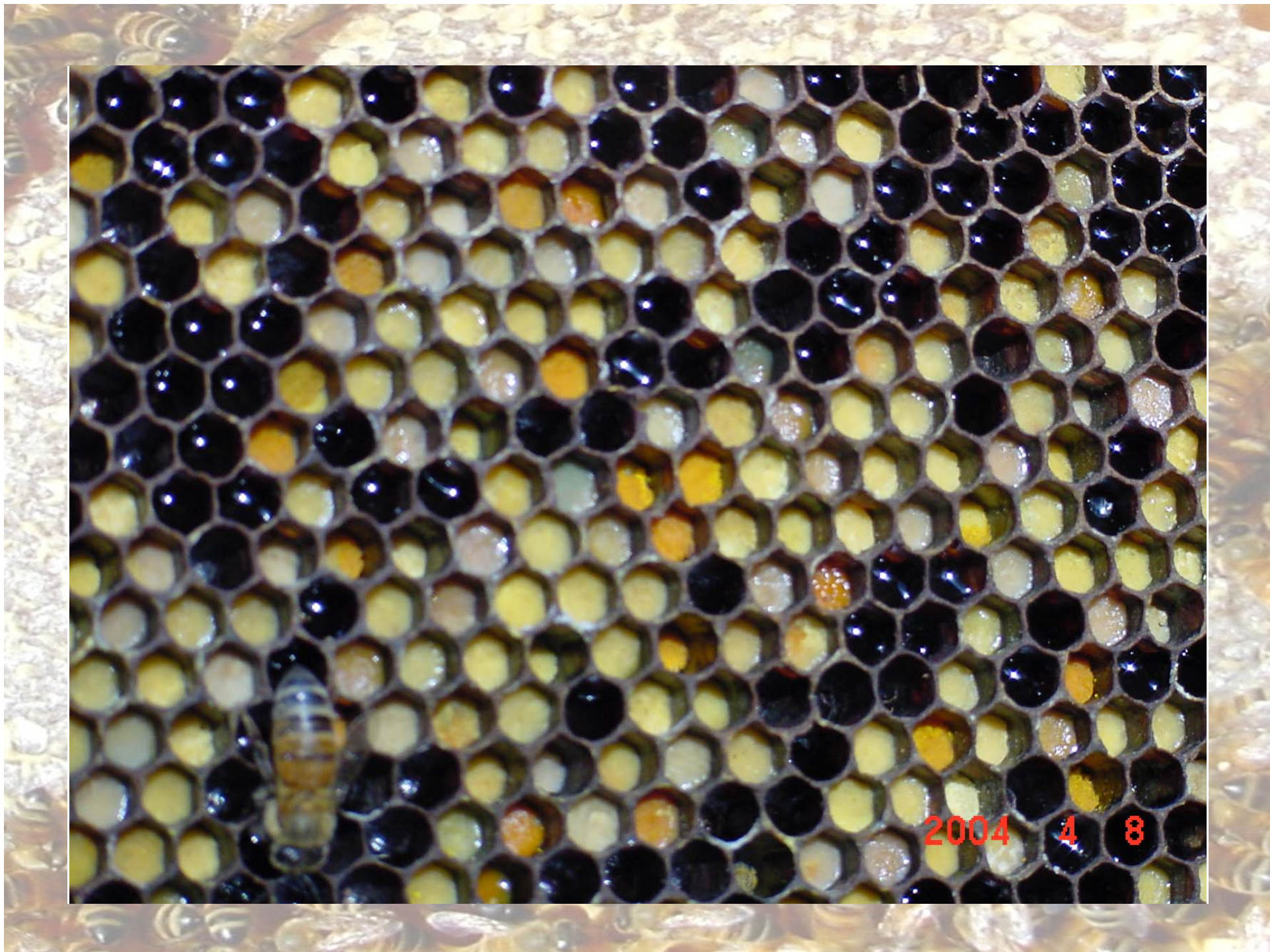


Hive bee rapidly relieves her



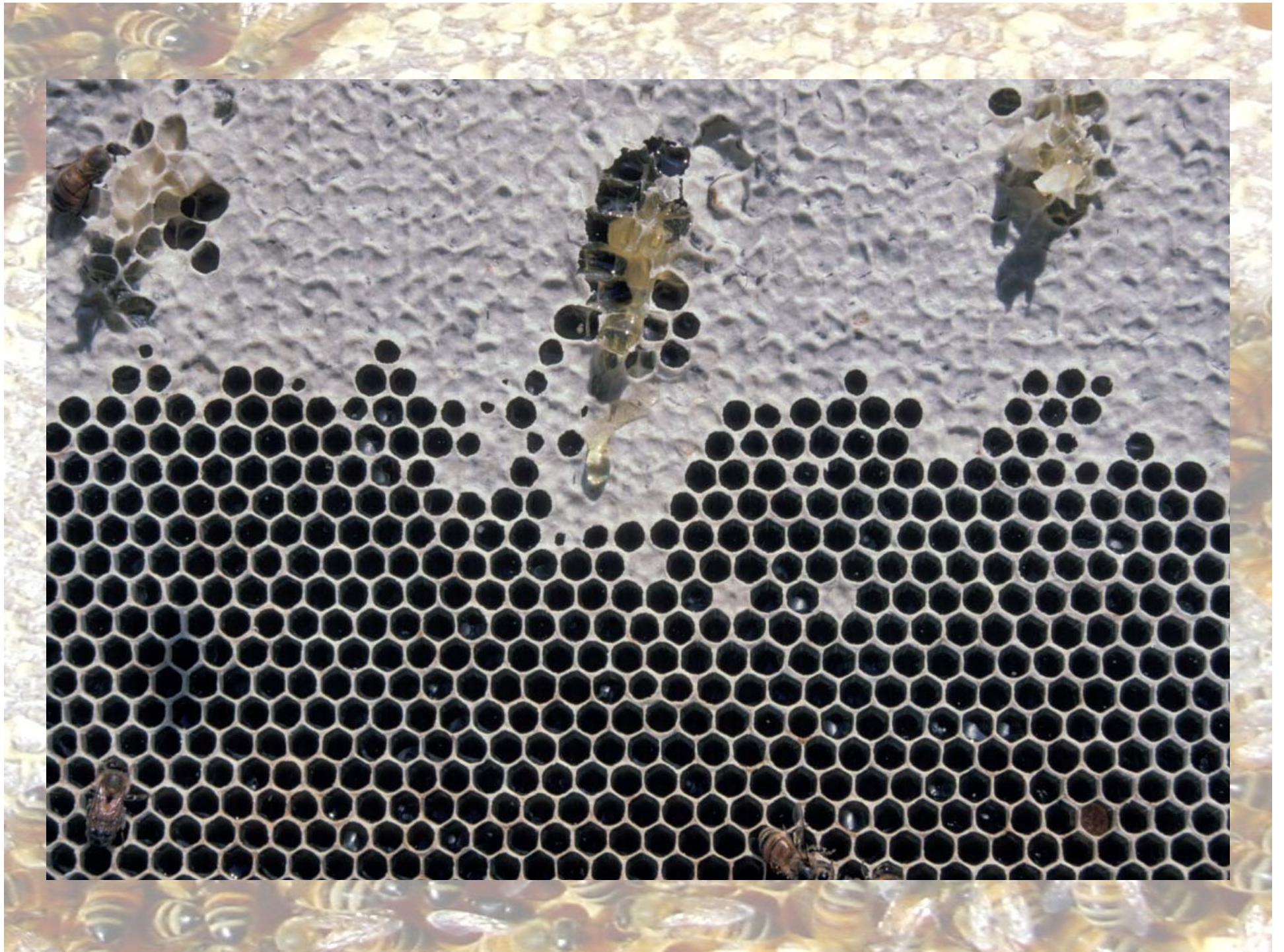
Forager collects nectar again















Top vs. bottom supering?





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December 1992 • Volume 2 • Number 4

BeeScience

MAR 25 1993

