

bees have been robbed closely, or the early season has been especially unfavorable, the colonies may need all they gather in the fall. If they have enough stores of their own from spring and summer gathering, very good honey for the market may be gathered after the first of September. Most of the plants mentioned below are common in Kentucky. The names of important species are printed in *italics*. The periods of blooming range somewhat with the season, and in some cases the same plant is repeated in two groups because of this range.

GROUP 1.—MARCH AND APRIL

The plants of Group 1 are much more important than we are likely to think. They furnish pollen in quantities when the bees first leave the hives in the spring. This food is necessary for brood rearing and an abundance of it is always a good omen for a successful season. The soft and red maples are the first in bloom, sometimes beginning in the middle of February. The elms furnish quantities of pollen from about the middle of March to the middle of April. Pussy willows are in bloom in the latter part of March, when the bees go wild over the catkins. None of our early pollen-producing flowers seem to be liked so well. If the combs are examined during these months they are likely to show numbers of cells packed with pollen, whitish, yellow and bright red, as if there was disposition to deposit the pollen of each flower species by itself. The plants of this period are the following:

Soft maple, red maple, elms, willows, sugar maple, peach, Japanese plums, strawberry, pear, hawthorns, blackberry, red-bud, dandelion, Carolina poplar, many wild flowers.

GROUP 2.—MAY AND JUNE

The spring surplus is gathered from flowers blooming during May and June, generally, most of it from black locust, white clover, yellow sweet clover, basswood, or from sourwood.

Apple, plum, pear, cherry, wild black cherry, blackberry, raspberry, hawthorns, strawberry, tulip poplar, willows, elder,