

WHAT IS NECTAR

Nectar is a **sweet liquid** produced by flowers. It is made from the plant's sugars and provides **food and energy** for many pollinators, especially bees.



HONEY BEE DRINKING NECTAR

DID YOU KNOW?

A single flower can produce nectar with up to **50% sugar**.

WHAT BEES DO WHEN THEY BRING NECTAR BACK TO THE HIVE

- 1 COLLECT NECTAR**
Forager bees sip nectar from flowers using their long tongue.
- 2 STORE IN HONEY STOMACH**
Nectar is stored in a special honey stomach, separate from the bee's regular stomach.
- 3 RETURN TO THE HIVE**
The forager flies back to the hive with the nectar load.
- 4 PASS IT ALONG**
The bee regurgitates nectar and passes it mouth-to-mouth to a house bee.
- 5 EVAPORATE WATER**
House bees fan their wings to remove water from the nectar, thickening it.
- 6 STORE IN HONEYCOMB**
The thickened nectar (now honey) is placed into hexagonal cells in the honeycomb.
- 7 SEALED WITH WAX**
Once the honey is ripe, bees seal the cell with a thin layer of wax to preserve it.

WHO EATS IT?

Nectar is the primary food source for many members of the hive.



ADULT BEES

Nectar provides quick energy for bees to fly, forage, build, and keep the hive warm.



BEE LARVAE

Nectar is transformed into honey and fed to larvae along with pollen to help them grow.



THE QUEEN BEE

Feeds on a special diet of honey (transformed nectar) and royal jelly so she can lay 1,200–1,500 eggs per day.



DRONE BEES

Males that do not collect nectar are fed honey by worker bees.

HOW IS IT STORED?



- Nectar is stored in hexagonal wax cells in the honeycomb.
- Bees reduce the water content from about 60–80% down to around 17–18% so it won't spoil.
- Once the honey is fully ripened, bees seal the cell with a cap of beeswax to protect it.
- Properly stored honey can last for years!

AMAZING FACTS!

- Bees can visit 50 to 100 flowers on a single trip!
- Bees travel a combined 55,000 miles to make 1 lb of honey.
- 2 million flower visits make up enough nectar for 1 lb of honey.
- One bee makes about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her whole life.
- Honey is the only food made by an insect that humans eat.
- The word "nectar" comes from the Greek word **nektar**, meaning "the drink of the gods."

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