

Bee Chronicles

6 January 2026

11 December 2025 temperature in the mid-50's. A honeybee was pestering me around my firewood pile.

12 December I may be stretching it a little. The pussy willows have $\frac{1}{2}$ inch silver catkins showing on the "new" growth end of branches. This is a little early. Although it has been cool (low 30's) it has not been very cold for the shrubs,

My prognostication (use it for ground hog's day 2 February) is an early spring which will continue more warm, than freezing. The Official long-term weather forecast for the Southeast USA is Cold in January warming into spring as there is a transition out of "La Nina". Normally there are two weeks of freezing weather toward the end of February. After that we can expect random freezing nights, with "Blackberry winter" and "Dogwood winter".

Prepare to start invigorating the queen in January. Take advantage of the periodic warm days and the queen will be ready to start laying more eggs in the abnormally warm February. The early start will make a big difference in being ready for an early nectar flow. Feed syrup and pollen substitute to back up the stored winter food in the hive.

19 Dec 2025 Temp = 43° headed for high 50's. It will be a good day to inspect and maybe feed the colonies. It is too early/late in the year to do my January '26 inspection. The next couple of "warm" days without rain could be the early warm days that come first week of January????? I will put pollen substitute in my field feeder.

I don't expect much change to the plants or weather this year so will close for 2025 and get this published with the newsletter.

Watch the February 2026 newsletter to catch up on the weather and bloom gap. February is the next real critical action month inside the hive.