



Honey Lab

Honey comes from floral nectar collected by honeybees. Since every species of flower has unique nectar, honey from different flower sources can have very different qualities. Honey from different floral nectars can have different colors, flavors and textures.

How do honeybees make honey?

When a bee collects nectar from a flower, it does not swallow the nectar, but it stores the nectar in its crop (which is somewhat like its throat). When the bee returns to the hive, it evaporates the water from the nectar as it spits it out. While most floral nectar is between 70% and 80% water and 20% to 30% sugar, after a bee is finished the process it will be only 15% water and 85% sugar. At this point it becomes what we call honey.

Below are descriptions of different floral honey sources and pictures. Read the descriptions, then taste the different honeys and try to match the honey with the source! Write your answers in the space provided.

Buckwheat

Eriogonum spp.

There are 250 different species of buckwheat, all native to North America. The flowers grow bunched together and can be white, yellow, pink or red. They make a honey that is dark brown and bitter



The honey that matches this is # _____

Avocado

Persea americana

The avocado originated in Southern Mexico and is now a common crop in Central America, Australia and other tropical regions. The honey of the avocado flower is dark amber in color and has a sweet but slightly bitter taste.



The honey that matches this is # _____

Tupelo

Nyssa aquatica

Tupelo is a swamp-loving tree that grows in wetlands throughout the southeast United States, including Florida. Tupelo honey is light amber in color, with a greenish cast. The taste is rich and sweet.



The honey that matches this is # _____

Clover

Trifolium spp.

There are about 240 species of clover worldwide, and it is considered a common weed in many areas. It is found in temperate regions all over the world. Clover honey is light yellow in color and very sweet. It is the most common type of table honey in the United States.



The honey that matches this is # _____

Key Lime

Citrus aurantifolia

Although we associate this fruit with the Keys of Florida, it is native to Southeast Asia and was brought to the West Indies by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage. Key limes are now enjoyed by many in the form of pie! The honey of these flowers is yellow and sweet with a strong lime flavor.



The honey that matches this is # _____