

## Nectar flows continue in Iowa and Michigan.

Welcome Dr. Karen Kandl and crew at the [Highlands Biological Station](#), who have added NC004 in Highlands, NC.

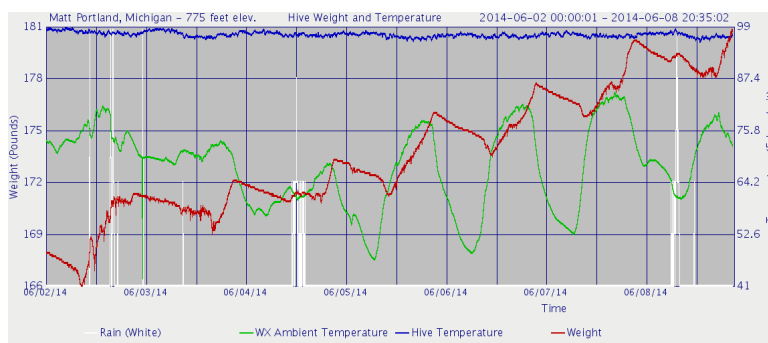
Portland, Michigan, see Graph 1, and Pella Iowa, Graph 2, both had net gains of 15 lbs for the week. Charleston, SC had good gains on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The nectar may be from a variety of wild flowers.

### Why use a strong hive?

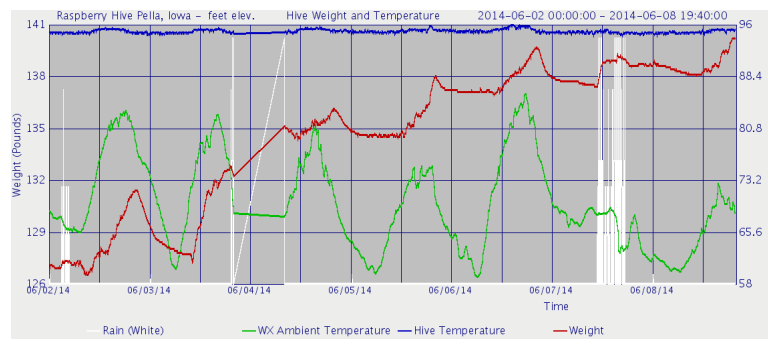
Scale hives require a strong, healthy colony, preferably a double deep pollination strength colony (minimum 6 frames of brood). The performance of the environment is being measured through plant/pollinator interaction, not the performance of an individual hive. NASA uses this data to correlate satellite data with what is happening on the ground and uses the timing of the nectar flows to study climate and land use changes.

An example of poor data from a weak hive can be seen in Graph 3. Two swarms were captured on April 15th and 16th from the same apiary. Unfortunately, the smaller swarm (Swarm 1) was placed on the scale. From May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup> (5 days) it only gained about 3 lbs. It would be difficult to tell if a nectar flow was occurring.

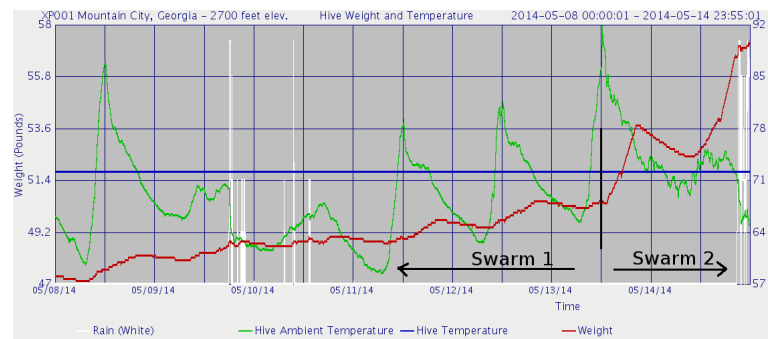
At the same time, a third strong hive (GA004) located within 5 miles, was recording good gains (See Graph 4). So, at noon on May 13<sup>th</sup>, the scale was moved to the stronger swarm. During the last 2 days of that week, Swarm 2 gained 7 lbs. The nectar flow and orientation flights are clearly visible after the stronger hive was placed on the scale.



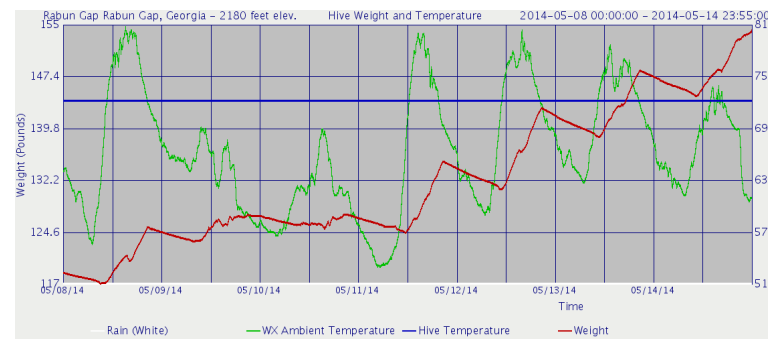
Graph 1: Portland, MI gained 14 lbs, as much as 4 lbs per day.



Graph 2: Pella, IA also gained about 15 lbs for the week.



Graph 3: Replacing a weak hive.



Graph 4: A strong hive nearby gained about 35 lbs.

**Don't hesitate to move the scale to a stronger hive should a colony go bad.**  
More scale hive management instructions are at <http://hivetool.net/management>