



2023 *Bee Calendar*



January



TCC TIPS

Kick off the new year with a new paint color in your living spaces, bedrooms, or basement. This month is a great time to start taking care of all the home improvement projects you've been putting off since 2022!

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Protect houseplants on window sills from the cold by placing cardboard between the plant and the glass
- Inspect your houseplants for aphids
(You can remove aphids with equal parts rubbing alcohol and water mixed with a drop of soap)
- Start germinating seeds for your garden:
 - *Oregano, Rosemary, Thyme, Micro-greens, Parsley*
 - *Bell Peppers, Celery, Onions, Leek*(plants highlighted in blue indicate that they attract pollinators)

OUTSIDE:

- Gently shake off snow-weighted branches
- Prune bushes & trees damaged from the snow
- Leave fresh water out for the winter birds

Average Temperature: **30°F**
Low: 22°F High: 36°F

Average Precipitation: **3.36"**

Average Snowfall: **13"**

Sunrise: 6:58 - 7:13am

Sunset: 4:22 - 4:56pm

Weather

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

Over the winter, Tom's bees need to stay active and warm to survive the cold Boston climate. Remarkably, the worker bees will form a cluster around the Queen and shiver the wing muscles to control the internal temperature of the hive, keeping it at a nice and toasty average of 81°F.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<div>BEE FACT</div> <div>Beekeeping is said to be the second oldest profession! Stone Age cave paintings were found in the Cave of Spiders in Valencia, Spain that depict ancient beekeepers gathering honey.</div>			

February



TCC TIPS

The right siding can lower your heating bill, improve your home's curb appeal, and protect your home for years! How's your siding looking? Now is the perfect time to replace or repair your siding after a long, harsh winter.

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Check your tools and prepare your shed for the year ahead
- Prune houseplants regularly to encourage new growth
- Rotate your houseplants to give them even sun exposure
- Start germinating seeds for your garden:
 - *Basil, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme*
 - *Tomatoes, Bell Peppers, Cabbage, Celery, Eggplant*(plants highlighted in blue indicate that they attract pollinators)

OUTSIDE:

- Avoid walking on your lawn during a winter thaw to protect it
- Start sowing annuals for early-blooming flowers
- Replace the mulch around plant crowns that have been exposed by frost heaves

Average Temperature: **31°F**
Low: 25°F High: 39°F

Average Precipitation: **3.25"**

Average Snowfall: **11"**

Sunrise: 6:21 - 6:57am

Sunset: 4:58 - 5:32pm

Weather



WHAT'S THE BUZZ WITH TOM'S BEES?

While the weather is still cold, Tom's bees remain clustered around the Queen, and there won't be much external activity. On warmer winter days, if the temperature reaches the 50s, the bees will leave the hive for short cleansing flights and undertaker bees will be responsible for removing dead bees from the hive.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents' Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	<div>BEE FACT</div> <div>A hive of bees will visit about 2 million flowers and fly over 55,000 miles to make 1 pound of honey. That's the equivalent of more than two trips around the world! Even more impressive, a hive can create around 100 pounds of honey a year.</div>			

March



TCC TIPS

Spring is here, and with warmer weather approaching, it's a good time to look at your outdoor living area. Your home can benefit from adding a deck or patio. Just imagine having a beautiful, newly finished deck by June!

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Prepare your seedlings for transplant by hardening them off (water less frequently the week before planting)
- Start germinating seeds indoors:
 - Pumpkin, Watermelon

OUTSIDE:

- Remove leaves and debris from your lawn regularly & remove any burlap used to protect young shrubs over the winter
- Use plastic milk jugs to protect early-blooming flowers
- Place dark/ clear plastic over your garden to warm up the soil
- Plant any bare-root trees, shrubs, or roses now
- Plant seeds outdoors:
 - Onions, Carrots, Turnips



Weather

Average Temperature: **38°F**

Low: 31°F High: 45°F

Average Precipitation: **4.32"**

Average Snowfall: **8"**

Sunrise: 6:19 - 6:28am

Sunset: 5:33 - 7:08pm

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

As the days become longer and the weather begins to warm, the Queen will start to lay more eggs. But with a minimal adult population after winter, there is a growing population to care for, and limited resources available. Pollen is scarce during this month, so any foraging trips made on warmer days may not be fruitful, which means that Tom's bees are at risk of starvation.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>BEE FACT</div> <div>Bee venom is relatively harmless to humans. The venom attacks skin cells and the immune system, causing pain and swelling. However, if you were stung 1,100 times, that could prove fatal!</div>			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Daylight Savings					St. Patrick's Day	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Spring Equinox					
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April



TCC TIPS

April showers can mean trouble for your gutters if they aren't functioning properly! Clean your gutters and downspouts regularly to avoid blockages and other issues.

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Set up nesting boxes for chickadees, wrens, and bluebirds
- Add a rain gauge to your garden to monitor rainfall

OUTSIDE:

- Patch any dead spots in your lawn before the summer heat
- Remember to water your plants more frequently now that summer's approaching
- Remove any mulch on top of early perennials that poke through
- Start seeds outdoors:
 - Onions, Winter Squash, Okra, Potatoes, Turnips
- Plant seedlings/ transplants outdoors:
 - Basil, Cilantro, Dill, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme
 - Pumpkin, Tomatoes, Watermelon, Bell Peppers, Eggplant*(plants highlighted in blue indicate that they attract pollinators)*



Weather

Average Temperature: **48°F**

Low: 41°F High: 56°F

Average Precipitation: **3.74"**

Sunrise: 5:41 - 6:27am

Sunset: 7:09 - 7:42pm

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

The colony's population continues to increase rapidly, now rearing drones in great numbers. However, this month is critical to determine the fate of Tom's hive. Despite the increased availability of food, if the weather remains too cold or inclement for Tom's bees to take foraging trips, they'll be at risk of starvation!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>BEE FACT</div> <div>Bees can age in reverse! Scientists discovered that foraging bees age very fast; after two weeks, their wings were worn, their bodies lost hair, and they lost brain function (measured as the ability to learn new things).</div>						1
2	3 Tom's Bees Arrive!	4	5	6	7	8
9 Easter Sunday	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Patriot's Day 127th Boston Marathon	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<div>BEE FACT CONT.</div> <div>However, when scientists had foraging bees watch over the larvae in the hive (a job meant for younger bees), they noticed significant changes. The older bees had an improved ability to learn, and scientists found a Prx6 protein in their brain that has also been found in humans and is known to help protect against dementia.</div>					

May



TCC TIPS

During these rainy months, the wood features around your home are vulnerable to wood rot and water damage! Schedule a carpentry inspection to prevent damage from worsening.

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Get your hummingbird feeders ready
- Start seeds indoors:
 - Tomatoes, Bell Peppers, Celery, Eggplant (F)

OUTSIDE:

- Avoid spraying insecticides that will harm pollinators
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs as soon as the flowers fade
- Mulch around newly planted flowers, vegetables, etc
- Weed your garden
- Start seeds outdoors:
 - Dill, Winter Squash, Okra
- Plant seedlings / transplants outdoors:
 - Pumpkin, Tomatoes, Watermelon, Eggplant (S)
 - Rosemary

(plants highlighted in blue indicate that they attract pollinators)



Weather

Average Temperature: **58°F**

Low: 50°F High: 66°F

Average Precipitation: **3.49"**

Sunrise: 5:10 - 5:39am

Sunset: 7:43 - 8:13pm

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

Now that the weather is consistently warmer, Tom's bees are busy foraging for pollen and nectar while the Queen focuses on laying thousands of eggs each day, rapidly increasing the population in the hive. This time of year indicates the beginning of 'swarm season'- when large groups of bees leave an established colony to form a new one in response to overcrowding in the hive.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 World Bee Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31	<div>BEE FACT</div> <div>Queen bees live for 2 years, sometimes up to 3 or 4, while drones only live for 55 days. Worker bees raised in spring live for around 6-7 weeks, but worker bees raised in fall may live for 4-6 months!</div>		

June



TCC TIPS

School is almost out, but is your home ready for the summer? Wooden decks get abused by harsh New England winters. Get your deck ready to impress this summer by having it refinished and stained!

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Repot houseplants to promote growth in the spring & summer
- Start planning what fall vegetables you want in your garden
- Start seeds indoors:
 - Courgette, Beans, Lettuce

OUTSIDE:

- This month focus on regular, consistent maintenance of your plants: water, weed, and feed (and do it often!)
- It's better to water your garden thoroughly once a week to establish a deep root system
- Suppress weeds in your lawn by mowing it regularly
- Plant seedlings / transplants outdoors:
 - Beets, Carrots, Potatoes, Pumpkin, Squash, Zucchini

Weather

Average Temperature: **68°F**

Low: 60°F High: 76°F

Average Precipitation: **3.68"**

Sunrise: 5:06 - 5:10am

Sunset: 8:14 - 8:25pm



WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

Hive populations peak during June and July. Depending on the size of the hive, any given colony could have around 40,000 to 60,000 bees! Right now, most of the population are worker bees, which allows them to harvest more pollen and nectar for the hive.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>BEE FACT</div> <div>Drone bees have a grandfather but no father because drones are haploids! They hatch from an unfertilized egg and only receive 16 chromosomes from their mother (the Queen), whereas the Queen hatches from a fertilized egg and receives 32 chromosomes.</div>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17
18 Father's Day	19 Juneteenth	20	21 Summer Solstice	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July



TCC TIPS

Now that you are spending more time outside in the sun, have you noticed the state of your home's exterior? It may finally be time to redo the exterior paint, install better energy-efficient windows, or update your front door/entrance.

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Watch out for houseplants sitting directly in the window (window panes intensify heat!)
- Start seeds indoors:
 - Broccoli, Cabbage

OUTSIDE:

- Harvest as often as needed- which could be daily
- Slugs? Put out shallow dishes of beer to capture them
- Dead-head bedding plants to encourage more flowers
- Start seeds outdoors:
 - Beets, Carrots, Cucumber, Winter Squash, Watermelon
- Plant seedlings / transplants outdoors:
 - Tomatoes, Bell Peppers, Celery, Eggplant, Okra



Weather

Average Temperature: **74°F**

Low: 65°F High: 81°F

Average Precipitation: **3.43"**

Sunrise: 5:11 - 5:35am

Sunset: 8:05 - 8:24pm

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

With the longest day of the year behind us, the days are beginning to shorten, and the weather will start to cool. While Tom's hive population is high, the bees will be busy bringing in pollen and nectar while it's abundant. You'll continue to notice some swarming, but it should calm down around mid-July.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	<div> <div></div> <div>BEE FACT</div> <div> Honey is full of vitamins, essential minerals, antioxidants, and amino acids! It's also an antimicrobial agent and can be used to speed up the healing of wounds. </div> </div>				

August



TCC TIPS

The end of summer is a great time to start planning your remodel! Whether it's a bathroom, kitchen, or other areas of your home- contacting a project consultant by the end of summer could mean a new kitchen, bath, (or whatever!) before the holidays!

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Order spring-blooming bulbs at the end of the month for fall planting
- Harvesting too many herbs? You can dry herbs to save them

OUTSIDE:

- Harvest your herbs just before their flowers open
- Vegetable gardens will likely require daily harvesting
- Remove old plants that have stopped producing to eliminate insects and diseases from your garden
- Start seeds outdoors:
 - Potatoes, Beans, Spinach
- Plant seedlings / transplants outdoors:
 - Broccoli, Cabbage, Kale, Lettuce, Spinach



Weather

Average Temperature: **72°F**

Low: 65°F High: 80°F

Average Precipitation: **3.35"**

Sunrise: 5:36 - 6:08am

Sunset: 7:20 - 8:03pm

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

As the days grow shorter, the Queen will not be laying at the same rate as June and July. The colony population will begin to diminish faster than it can grow, leading to a decrease in pollen flow, which cues the bees to start rearing 'winter bees'. Winter bees is a term given to the bees born near the end of August and onwards due to having a longer lifespan than their sisters born in the summer.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
						National Honey Bee Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<div>BEE FACT</div> <div>Bees create their signature buzzing sound by beating their wings over 200 times per second!</div>	

September



TCC TIPS

Before your home endures another harsh New England winter, get a carpentry inspection to ensure your home is ready for anything- stop small problems from becoming big problems!

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Early to mid-September is a good time to preserve your harvest
- Start saving seeds from open-pollinated and heirloom plants

OUTSIDE:

- Begin cutting back on watering to prepare your plants for dormancy
- When emptying annual beds- clean out all of the dead plants. A clean garden will have fewer diseases next spring
- Add manure, compost, and leaves to provide your garden with more organic matter
- Use netting to cover water features to prevent water-logging
- Start seeds outdoors:
 - Turnips, Carrots



Weather

Average Temperature: **65°F**

Low: 57°F High: 72°F

Average Precipitation: **3.44"**

Sunrise: 6:09 - 6:39am

Sunset: 6:27 - 7:18pm

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

As we move into fall, Tom's bees will begin preparing for winter. The cold weather means the end of bloom season for flowers and trees, which means that the bee's nectar and pollen sources are diminishing. The Queen's rate of egg laying slows, and the brood area will continue to contract as the focus shifts to getting ready for the winter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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BEE FACT

When Queen Elizabeth II died on September 8, 2022, the royal beekeeper informed the Queen's bees. This tradition goes back centuries and stems from the belief that the bees, as members of the family, should be informed of major life events (especially births and deaths). Neglecting to do so was believed to lead to various misfortunes.

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Labor Day

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Labor Day

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Fall Equinox

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Fall Equinox

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October



TCC TIPS

With the holidays approaching, give your family & guests something to talk about this year. A kitchen remodel can completely revolutionize the way you cook and host!

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Begin preparing your shed and tools for storage: make sure the tools are thoroughly cleaned once you're finished with them, and seal your shed to deter mice
- Put away pots and containers for the season
- Now is a good time for a soil test
(you can do it yourself or send it off to a lab)

OUTSIDE:

- Plant your spring bulbs and cool-season annuals
- Remove any green tomatoes still left on your plants
- Collect your fallen leaves to make leaf mould that will be ready for October 2024's soil conditioning
- Regularly pick up the leaves from your lawn to keep it healthy
- Harvest your cool-season crops

Weather

Average Temperature: **55°F**

Low: 47°F High: 61°F

Average Precipitation: **3.94"**

Sunrise: 6:41 - 7:16am

Sunset: 5:39 - 6:26pm

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

With winter approaching, the Queen is laying little to no eggs in October. The drone populations in the hive have dwindled, and any remaining drones will get kicked out since the Queen will not be mating over the winter. On warm days, Tom's bees can forage for food and may rob any unprotected hives since pollen and nectar are becoming harder to find.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Indigenous Peoples' Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween	<div><div></div><div>BEE FACT Serial killers commit crimes close to home but far enough away that their neighbors don't get suspicious, just like bees! Bees collect pollen close to home but far enough away that predators can't find the hive. Studying these "buffer zones" helped to create an algorithm for locating killers.</div></div>			

November



TCC TIPS

You don't need new cabinets to be the talk of the party. Cabinet painting & refinishing will have your kitchen looking brand new just in time for the holidays... without breaking the bank!

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Winterize your lawn mower by wiping off all the dirt and debris

OUTSIDE:

- Till the soil of your vegetable garden to help reduce pests
- Give the compost pile a good turning before winter sets in
- Protect young evergreens from the cold with burlap
- Give your trees and shrubs one last watering before the ground freezes
- Bring in garden hoses and drain your outdoor faucets
- Check the condition of your fences, raised beds, etc.
- Mow your lawn one last time & drain any water features

Weather

Average Temperature: **45°F**

Low: 38°F High: 51°F

Average Precipitation: **3.99"**

Sunrise: 7:17 - 7:52am

Sunset: 5:12 - 5:37pm

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

Now that the winter weather is closing in, Tom's bees will primarily be clustered around the Queen to provide warmth to the hive. On the occasional warm day, the bees will leave for cleansing flights, but otherwise, their only other job during this time is to consume honey stores to fuel the high caloric requirements needed to heat the hive.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	<div>BEE FACT</div> <div>Did you know that honey bees are not native to America? They were actually brought to America in the 17th century by European colonists.</div>	

December



TCC TIPS

There is still time to have the home of your dreams before the holidays. Adding architectural details like wainscoting or trim can completely change any room in your home... In under a week!

GARDENING TASKS

INSIDE:

- Group houseplants together to help them cope with the low humidity in most homes over the winter
- Move houseplants away from windows to prevent chilling

OUTSIDE:

- Protect tender palms and tree ferns with horticultural fleece
- Cover your compost pile to prevent nutrients from leaching
- Minimize traffic on frozen ground to reduce damage to your lawn
- Start pruning dead or dangerous limbs from trees
- Use sand on icy walks in place of salt to avoid lawn damage

Average Temperature: **36°F**

Low: 28°F High: 41°F

Average Precipitation: **3.78"**

Average Snowfall: **9"**

Sunrise: 7:53 - 8:13am

Sunset: 5:12 - 5:21pm

Weather

WHAT'S THE *BUZZ* WITH TOM'S BEES?

As the winter solstice passes, the days will begin getting longer again, signaling to Tom's bees that it will soon be time to start the cycle over! Until then, the bees will stay hunkered down in their hive-- heating and eating until it's warm enough for the bees to forage for food.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 TCC 37 th Anniversary	4	5	6	7 Hanukkah Begins	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve	<div>BEE FACT</div> <div>Bees have an extraordinary sense of smell! They have 170 olfactory, or 'smell' receptors, used for foraging and communication. Bees can also tell the difference between flowers based on their scent, and when the Queen releases pheromones the bees can pick up on the scent and react accordingly.</div>					

TOM CURREN

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