

Honey Bees

Springtime brings to us an abundance of beautiful flowers on the trees and shrubs. Summertime brings us an equal abundance of fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts. One thing these all have in common is our little friends the Honey Bees. They are hard at work pollinating flowers on every kind of plant you can imagine. Without them our natural food source would collapse. Honey bees work hard. Their lifespan is about 45 days. The queen bee will live around 2



years. A healthy hive in peak season may contain 40-50,000 bees and by end of winter dwindle down to 6-8,000. Hives need to be treated regularly for mites, hive beetles and moths. It's recommended to leave 30-40 lbs of honey on the hive so they can eat it for energy through the winter months. Most of the honeybees you see out and about come from domestic hives as the majority of wild bees have succumbed to mites and pesticides. Pictured is a domestic hive at my house and a wild hive that's been in an old mill house for over 50 years. If you have interest in honey bees the NC Beekeepers association is a great place to find more information.



Changes Before You

The completion of new landscaping projects brings exciting changes. One of the most fulfilling aspects of our work is getting to observe how the look of the finished product changes over time. We inform customers with new landscapes that the second and third year growth on new installations will be much more significant than the first. When a tree, shrub, or perennial is planted it requires time for the roots to grow out and establish in the surrounding soil so it can restart its growth cycle. The establishment time varies depending on the type and size of the plant, and time of year upon installation. Most of the magnificent and colorful landscapes we see in magazines like Southern Living have had at least a couple years to grow. A good example of this can be seen in the recent photos of the Grace Ridge project we completed in 2016. The plant material is maturing nicely and it is now filling its space. The upright perennials and grasses have gotten bigger and the creeping perennials are flowing over the boulder walls. This softens the large boulder walls and outcroppings and blends the hard materials with the soft materials much like we observe in nature. Take time to enjoy the landscape as it changes before you.

