

N.Z. Honey Profiles and minimum criteria for Monofloral “Varieties”

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Key Characteristics Variety	Appearance		Pollen		Organoleptic		Notes
	Colour	Pfund Colour Measure mm	Minimum Frequency % of Characterising Species	Total Pollen Count (No of pollen grains per 10 g honey sample) Range	Aroma	Flavour	
Clover	Light pale gold	0 –60mm	45% a	Mean 100,000 s.d. 90,000	Herbal dry grass.	Clean mild, sweet, delicate	
Honeydew * (Beech)	Medium dark amber	87.2 mm s.d. 10.5			Musky	Complex, treacly, malt extract.	See note below
Kamahi	Light to pale yellow	42 average s.d. 11.5	60%	Mean 185,000 s.d. 66,800	Intense, musky, Quite complex Dominate aroma	Very clean rich and sweet distinctive aftertaste, Buttery texture	Dominant aroma
Manuka/ Kanuka	Dark cream to dark brown	84 mm 11.8mm s.d.	70%	Mean 517,000 s.d. 280,000	Damp earth, heather, aromatic	Mineral, slightly bitter, tangy.	Thixotropic in liquid state
Nodding Thistle	Colourless to pale lemon			Low pollen count	Perfumed floral blossom, intense.	Intense floral flavour,	Dominance of fructose, Slow natural granulation.
Pohutukawa	Off- white	Pure 0 –5 Blends 5 – 30	20%		Musky, damp leaves, salty (almost seaweed) but pleasant)	Clean earthy sweet butterscotch Scenty	Very rapid granulation, days in comb, hours in tank
Southern Rata	Colourless to Pale cream	16.4mm s.d. 8.6mm	45%	Mean 123,000 s.d. 35,900	Heady aromatic	Sweet, distinctive, mildly salty Scenty	
Rewarewa	Amber to red	92.9mm s.d. 9.2mm	10%	Mean 112,800 s.d. 101,900	Light aroma mild mixed fruit	Clean sweet smoky malty	
Tawari	Light	23 mm s.d. 8.8mm	?	Low pollen count	Rich perfumed musk/incense/sandal wood orange peel/liquorice	Clean musty rosehip syrup, very sweet golden syrup	High in moisture Doesn't fully Granulate
Thyme	Amber	105 mm	20%	3,000- 8,000 Thyme pollen grains per 10g honey sample	Pervasive very aromatic	Resinous aromatic herbal, very strong	Very unique, dominant aroma
Vipers Bugloss (Blue Borage)	Light Pinkish Brown	21.7 mm s.d. 9mm	45%	Mean 72,000 s.d. 38,700	Initial floral, bouquet when fresh	Clean tasting mildly herbal	Texture oily texture

- Beech Honey Dew Honey is not really a Floral honey so that the main “certifiable” criteria for it are that it should have an Electrical Conductivity >800micro Siemens/cm at 20°C & 20% DM soln and for “high grade” > 1000uS/cm. Mean 1260 uS/cm s.d.250. It should not crystallise. Sooty mould hyphae & ascospores often present.