

# FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions URBAN BEEKEEPING

### Q: What is Urban Beekeeping?

A: Urban Beekeeping is the keeping and maintaining of bees on a residential Lot in the urban area by a beekeeper. Urban Beekeeping allows for properties without Agricultural uses to keep and maintain limited amounts of bees.

### Q: Where is Urban Beekeeping permitted?

A: Urban Beekeeping is permitted in all zones in which a Single Detached Dwelling is permitted, except on a Lot where Agriculture Use is permitted. The regulations associated with Urban Beekeeping are outlined below.

### Q: Can anyone keep bees?

A: No. Only people who meet the provincial beekeeping requirements and are registered with the Province may keep bees. Please see the Helpful Links below for more information.

### Q: How many Beehives & Nucleus Colonies can I have?

A: The number of Beehives and Nucleus Colonies permitted depends on the size of your Lot. The minimum Lot size required is 540 m<sup>2</sup>.

- With a Lot size of 540 m<sup>2</sup> or greater, you are permitted to have up to 2 Beehives and 2 Nucleus Colonies.
- With a Lot size of 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> or greater, you are permitted to have up to 4 Beehives and 4 Nucleus Colonies.
- With a Lot size of 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> or greater, you are permitted to have up to 6 Beehives and 6 Nucleus Colonies.

	2 Beehives & 2 Nucleus Colonies	540 m <sup>2</sup>
	4 Beehives & 4 Nucleus Colonies	1,000 m <sup>2</sup>
	6 Beehives & 6 Nucleus Colonies	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>

### Q: What is the difference between a Beehive and a Nucleus Colony?

A: A Beehive is an enclosed Structure that is limited to 30 frames, in which honeybees live and raise their young.

A Nucleus Colony is a colony of not more than 5 removable frames primarily used for the rearing and storing of queen bees.

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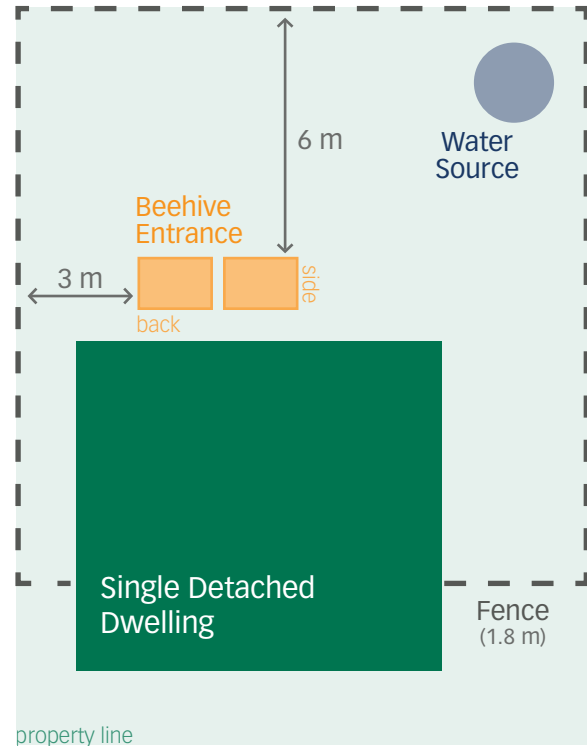
### Q: Where can I locate the bees?

A: Beehives and Nucleus Colonies must be located in the rear yard, behind the Principal Building and surrounded by a solid fence or hedge with a minimum height of 1.8 m.

The minimum setback from any property line to the Beehive or Nucleus Colony entrance is 6.0 m. For all other sides, the minimum setback is 3.0 m.

### Q: Why do I need to provide a water source on my Lot if I am keeping bees?

A: In accordance with the City of Abbotsford [Zoning Bylaw](#), a water source must be provided on the Lot to ensure the bees are not seeking water from a nearby neighbour.



### Q: What do I do if I see a bee swarm?

A: Swarming season is early spring and beekeepers should be aware of the appropriate response. If a swarm forms and assistance is required, please email the South Fraser Branch of the BCPA at [langleybeeclub@gmail.com](mailto:langleybeeclub@gmail.com), or call Elaine Garry at 778-982-4868 or Courtney White at 604-309-1684.

### Helpful Links

[Province of BC Apiculture](#)

[Province of BC Bee Regulation](#)

[South Fraser Branch of the BCPA](#)

[BC Honey Producers](#)

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