

Urban Beekeeping



What is Urban Beekeeping?

- ◇ The keeping of honey bees for domestic or commercial purposes (i.e. the production of honey for personal consumption or sale).

Why is Beekeeping Important?

- ◇ Bees play a key role in the production of most fruit and forage crops through pollination.
- ◇ Honey bee pollination in BC is responsible for over \$250 million per year in agricultural production and approximately 1.5 billion per year in Canada.

Healthy Beekeeping

- ◇ Both Provincial regulations and municipal bylaws have been designed to ensure beekeepers maintain their hives in a responsible manner, ensuring an adequate water supply and preventing the spread of disease between colonies.
- ◇ Bees in a healthy, well managed hive are unlikely to exhibit aggressive behaviours.

Bees are allowed in the following locations:

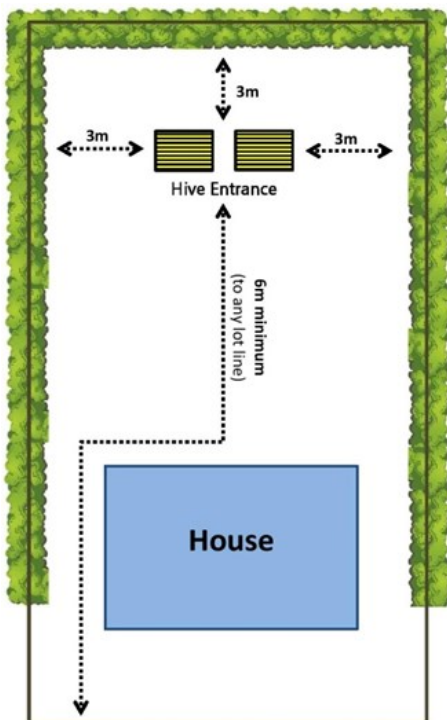
- ◇ Any residential property that allows for a single family home or duplex, if the lot is 300m² or greater.
- ◇ Institutional property in the P1 (Civic Assembly) or P6 (University Village) Zones in association with an educational program.
- ◇ Community gardens.

General Requirements

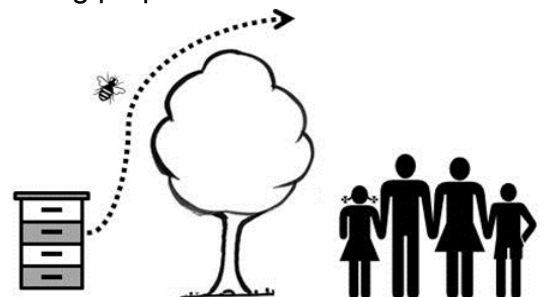
- ◇ Beekeepers must be registered with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- ◇ Beekeepers must complete a recognized Beekeeping course and seek membership in a local Bee club.

Siting of Beehives:

- ◇ The entrance to the beehive must be 6m away from any property line.
- ◇ The side and rear of the hives must be 3m away from any property line.
- ◇ A hedge or fence with a minimum height of 1.8m is required to separate the hive from the neighbouring properties.



The flight path behaviours of bees can be directed away from neighbouring properties by placing obstacles (such as a fence or hedge)



Number of Beehives:

Minimum Lot Size	Number of Hives
300m ² to 500m ²	2 beehives and 2 nucleus colonies
500m ² to 2000m ²	4 beehives and 4 nucleus colonies
2000m ² or larger	6 beehives and 6 nucleus colonies
Agricultural land	unlimited



Source: GreenUP Association

Provincial Regulations:

- ◇ Beekeeping is regulated by the Provincial government under the Bee Regulation.
- ◇ The Province requires all beekeepers and hive locations to be registered with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- ◇ A copy of the Bee Regulation and a description of the registration process are available on the Ministry of Agriculture website (www.aqf.gov.bc.ca/apiculture)

How can I report a complaint?

- ◇ A complaint can be made with the City's Development and Regulatory Enforcement Department via phone at 604-793-2908 or in person at City Hall.



Resources:

Ministry of Agriculture—Apiculture

www.aqf.gov.bc.ca/apiculture

BC Honey Producers Association

www.bchoneyproducers.com

Canadian Honey Council

www.honeycouncil.ca

Chilliwack Beekeepers Community

chilliwackbeekeepers@gmail.com

**Campbell Gold Honey Farm & Meadery
(Abbotsford)**

www.campbellsgold.com

The Honey Bee Centre (Surrey)

www.honeybeecentre.com



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