

Tips for Beginners

If you wish to start beekeeping, joining a beekeeping club is a great place to start! Check out www.kamloopsbeekeepers.com for local beekeeping information. You may be interested in a beekeeping course, chatting with a beekeeper, or borrowing beekeeping books or videos. New members are always welcome!

Swarms

Swarming occurs when honeybees collectively leave a hive with half of their workers and the queen to find a new home. In this case, the bees are filled with honey; therefore, they are quite docile and rarely dangerous. If you are unfamiliar with bee swarms, it is advised that you view the Kamloops Beekeepers website for information and contact one of the beekeepers listed on the site for assistance.

Links

British Columbia Honey Producers' Association
(Kamloops Division)
www.kamloopsbeekeepers.com

British Columbia Honey Producers' Association
www.bcbeekeepers.com

BC Ministry of Agriculture: Apiculture - Bees
and Pollinators
www.agf.gov.bc.ca/apiculture

Contact us.

Bylaw Enforcement (including Animal
Control)

www.kamloops.ca/bylaws

Phone: 250-828-3409
Email: bylaws@kamloops.ca



What's the Buzz? Beekeeping in Kamloops



Canada's Tournament Capital



Canada's Tournament Capital

Beekeeping

On April 1, 2014, Council approved amendments to Animal Control Bylaw No. 34-11 to allow beekeeping in all single-family and two-family residential zones, as well as in institutional zones when associated with a community garden or educational program. A minimum parcel size of 370 m² is required. Beekeeping is not permitted in multi-family areas, including strata developments, or commercial and industrial areas.

Regulations for Beekeeping

Siting

While bees are generally very docile creatures, they may act defensively when they feel threatened. Accordingly, the updated Animal Control Bylaw contains siting and other requirements for beehives to reduce the potential for conflicts with neighbours.

Beehives must be located in rear yards and face away from adjacent properties, lanes, and streets. Hives must be sited so as to allow a clear flight path of at least 7.5 m from the front of the hive to any property line and to allow at least 3 m between the side and rear of the hive and any property line, except where the hive is:

- Sited behind a solid fence or hedge that is at least 1.8 m high, in which case the 7.5 m setback may be reduced to 6 m, and the 3 m setback reduced to 1 m; or
- Elevated (e.g., on a platform, deck, or rooftop) such that the underside of the hive is at least 2.5 m above ground level, in which case the 7.5 m setback may be reduced to 3 m.

Number of hives permitted

Honeybees are raised in a hive or colony that is typically made up of a series of rectangular frames in which the bees live and raise their young. A colony of five or less removable frames that is used mainly for rearing and storing queen bees is referred to as a nucleus colony.

The maximum number of colonies and nucleus colonies permitted on a given property depends on the lot size, as illustrated in the following table:

Lot size	Maximum number of hives	Maximum number of nucleus colonies
370 m ² to 929 m ²	2	2
929 m ² to 1,858 m ²	4	4
1,858 m ² to 0.8 ha	6	6
0.8 ha to 2 ha	10	10
2 ha or larger	Unlimited	Unlimited

Other regulations

Any person keeping bees in the City of Kamloops must:

- a) Comply with the *Bee Act* (now under the *Animal Health Act*), including registration of beehives with the Province of BC;
- b) Provide a water supply to prevent the bees from seeking water from other sources; and
- c) Take all reasonable measures to prevent and manage swarming or defensive behaviour by the bees.

About Honeybees and Beekeeping

Did you know?

One in every three bites of food we eat depends on pollination by insects such as honeybees. Honeybees play an important role in promoting biodiversity and food security by pollinating plants, including food crops, and providing useful goods such as honey, bee pollen, royal jelly, and beeswax.

Did you know?

On average, about 60,000 honeybees live in a single hive during summer months. Worker bees play many roles, including cleaning and feeding the queen bee, building and cleaning the cells, caring for young bees, and collecting nectar and pollen. There is only one queen in the hive, and her role is to lay eggs.

Did you know?

We can help bees. Using alternatives to pesticides and herbicides, providing water, and growing bee-friendly gardens (including those that incorporate flowers for continual bloom) help to keep bee populations healthy.

