

## FERAL BEE ABATEMENT PROGRAM

*The primary mission of the Feral Bee Abatement Program is to resolve complaints about bee-related health and safety issues throughout Los Angeles County.*

Bees may be found almost everywhere in our environment busy foraging for food. They feed on nectar for energy and pollen to feed their young. In Los Angeles County, most feral (wild) bee colonies are Africanized, which tend to be more protective of their hives compared to the more docile domesticated European bees, used by commercial beekeepers.



### Bee Information Line

Bee removal is not conducted by this Department, but an information line is available to the public for bee-related questions. If you feel that a bee infestation on an adjacent property has become a nuisance, contact our Bee Info Line at:

**1 (800) 233-9279**  
**1 (800)-BEE-WARY**

Please speak clearly when leaving a message and provide your first and last name, contact information, and address where the bees are located. You will be contacted promptly.

If the problem is on your property, it is your responsibility to abate the nuisance. Contact our Department and we will provide information on businesses that do bee removal.



### WHAT TO DO IF STUNG



- Go quickly to a safe area
- Remove stinger as soon as possible
- Scrape out the stinger with fingernail, knife blade or credit card; don't squeeze the stinger
- Wash sting area with soap and water
- Apply ice pack to relieve pain and swelling
- Seek medical attention if breathing is troubled, if stung numerous times, or if allergic to bee stings.

## APIARY PROGRAM

*The primary mission of the Apiary Program is to safeguard the California honey bee industry and to gather statistics for the annual Crop Report.*

Beekeeping is a very important part of the agricultural industry. Bee products, such as honey, wax and pollen, may be important commodities, but, more importantly, bees provide pollination for fresh produce found in our local markets and gardens. Beekeepers are found throughout Los Angeles County in urban and rural settings and fall into two categories: hobbyists and commercial beekeepers.



### Beekeeping Requirements

In Los Angeles County, all beekeepers are required to:

- Follow California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Division 13: Bee Management and Honey Production
- Register their hives annually with the County Agricultural Commissioner / Weights & Measures office by completing the Annual Apiary Registration form. (FAC § 29044)
- Contact the City or County in which their apiaries are located regarding ordinances and restrictions.

### Colony Care

To prevent public nuisance calls, beekeepers must properly maintain their hives.

- Careful Hive Placement. Easy hive access, water source, and adequate distance from the public.
- Provide A Water Source. Providing ample water nearby will keep bees out of neighboring water sources.
- Provide Space In Hive Boxes. Overcrowded hives may cause bees to be more irritable with a tendency to swarm.
- Re-Queen Regularly With Known Genetics. Prevent aggressive (Africanized) genetics by re-queening with queens of known genetic origin.
- Regular Hive Maintenance. Stress from lack of food resources, water, pests, space, or failure of a queen may be easily prevented by inspecting the hive regularly.

**Apiary Program: (626) 575-5466**

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



## Department of Agricultural Commissioner / Weights & Measures

**acwm.lacounty.gov**

**BEE INFO LINE – 1 (800) 233-9279**

**APIARY PROGRAM – (626) 575-5466**

**Headquarters Office**  
**12300 Lower Azusa Road**  
**Arcadia, CA 91006**  
**Voice: (626) 575-5471**  
**Fax: (626) 350-3243**

**South Gate Office**  
**11012 Garfield Avenue**  
**South Gate, CA 90280**  
**Voice: (562) 622-0402**  
**Fax: (562) 861-0278**



**This information is available  
in alternative formats.**

**For further assistance:**  
**TDD (626) 575-5520**  
**Voice: (626) 575-5471**  
**Fax: (626) 350-3243**

November 2015

## Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights & Measures



## BEES IN OUR ENVIRONMENT



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

# NUISANCE BEES

Problems with bees develop in urban communities when bees come into close proximity to humans.

## BEES COME INTO CONTACT WITH PEOPLE MOST COMMONLY IN FOUR WAYS:



### #1 Swarms

In spring, many honey bee colonies swarm. A colony will divide and about 1/3 of the workers will leave, usually with an older queen to find a new location. The individual bees fly so close to a queen in flight that, together, they form a mass reaching one to two feet in diameter. These masses often form a temporary “cluster” seen on structures, shrubs, or the ground. If the swarms are left alone, they will usually leave in two to three days. If you should find a swarm in a location that can’t be tolerated due to safety issues, contact a beekeeper or a pest control company.



### #2 Feral Bee Colony

Bee swarms will eventually find a suitable location for another hive. In the wild, bees may find an opening in trees, quiet locations under rocky overhangs or large tree limbs. However, in the urban landscape, structures are often perfect for bee colonies. If a feral bee colony establishes a colony on a property or in a structure and has been determined to be a public nuisance, County Public Health Ordinance 11.02.190 requires the person having control of the property to abate or remove such a condition or nuisance within a reasonable time.



### #3 Foraging Bees

Bees are a very important part of our environment. They pollinate flowers and are the primary means by which many fruits, vegetables, and seeds are produced. Bees forage for food (pollen and nectar) and water to cool their hive. These foraging bees often come in contact with people and pets near flowering plants, pet water bowls and swimming pools. These bees are not aggressive; however, they could accidentally become entangled in a person’s hair, get stepped on or come in contact with someone’s skin. In these situations, a bee will naturally defend itself.



### #4 Beekeepers

In Los Angeles County, many cities allow beekeeping. However, each city may have its own unique restrictions. In the unincorporated areas of the County, beekeeping is allowed in certain cases. County Regional Planning may be contacted at (213) 974-6455 for further information.

***Nuisance bee incidents which affect the health and safety of the public will be investigated promptly by calling the Bee Info Line.***

**1 (800) 233-9279  
1(800) BEE-WARY**

# BEE-PROOFING YOUR HOME

Africanized and European Honey Bees both like to establish colonies in hollow walls. “Bee-Proofing” prevents bees from entering a wall void, attic or sub-area by sealing, caulking, patching or screening any opening larger than 1/8th of an inch. Locate places around your home that bees might want to use as nesting sites and correct them before bees find them.

- Air vents
- Pipe holes
- Roof junctions
- Gaps under eaves
- Cable wiring holes
- Missing light fixtures
- Chimney roof junctions
- Openings in exterior walls
- Electric meter compartments
- Gaps between roofing and fascia boards
- Debris /Trash items:
  - Empty containers-boxes, buckets, pots
  - Lumber piles
  - Old furniture

Major repairs to your home may require obtaining permits and coordinating with building inspectors. If there is any question about this, call your local Building and Safety Office. The tools and materials shown here are available at any local hardware or home improvement store.

- Caulk gaps and cracks larger than 1/8”.



- Use stucco or plastic patching material to fix holes in walls.



- Replace with 1/8” mesh if screens are missing or the mesh is too large.



- Fix narrow gaps using insulating foam.



- Fill wide gaps with steel wool or 1/8” mesh hardware.

