

No Buzz Zones Abound!

For about a month now we've been locating the towns and villages and cities that don't allow honey bees on their streets or in their back yards. This is the initial list to be posted on the WALL OF SHAME by thedailygreen.com and BeeCulture.com.

There are many here, but we suspect there are more. If you live in a No Buzz Zone and you don't see your town named here let us know...we want to add it to the list and we'll update the map.

Most of these cities and towns have had these rules on the books for years. And without being challenged and with no good arguments offered, we presume they will stay that way. We hope that if you live in one of these cities you will question the powers that be and challenge these age-old rules and turn your No Buzz Zone into a Free Flight Zone, with bees in backyards and rooftops and everywhere a honey bee should be able to be.

If a guideline is needed to help the city fathers along, click [here](#) to download our guidelines for constructing a sensible nuisance law, rather than outright banning bees from the neighborhood. These guidelines are compiled by harnessing honey bee biology principles, generalized but well thought Good Neighbor Policy guidelines, and Safety First practices for any livestock management. Best Management Practices for beekeeping are employed in this document also.

But the culture and environment in every city is its own master, and we urge you to use these guidelines that best fit your locale. They is not a one size fits all piece of legislation, but the best suggestions the beekeeping industry has developed over many decades of having honey bees, beekeepers and people all in the same place.

Urban Beekeeping Guidelines and Good Neighbor Practices

Where to put your colonies

- Away from property lines
- Build screens so colonies are out of sight. Use fencing, buildings or shrubbery
- Have screens tall enough to direct flight paths at least 6 feet high
- Keep away from occupied buildings, but if close, away from entrances and walkways
- Use neutral colors for your colonies
- Place on substantial hive stands
- Leave enough room between the screens and the hives to work around the colonies
- Avoid having droppings fall on neighbors
- Face natural flight paths away from neighbors, your yard or garden, no matter the height of the screen

Provide Water At all times

- Place colonies near a natural water source if possible
- If a natural source isn't available, provide a permanent water source that does not go dry, including water gardens, automatic livestock water devices, dripping faucets, drip irrigation pipes and the like. NEVER let a water source run dry.

Population

- On a typical city lot the number of colonies should remain reasonable...one or two is suggested, more than five is not. This includes nucs, top bar hives and standard 10 or 8 frame hives
- If hives are kept on roof tops this number may be increased, but doubled may be too many. On larger lots, city or suburban, these numbers may be proportionally increased

Beekeeping

- Colonies must be registered with the state apiary division of the department of agriculture, and any other agency requiring registration
- If inspection is part of registration, colonies should be inspected as often as required
- All colonies must be in moveable frame hives
- Do not work colonies when neighbors are outside
- Do not work colonies when the weather is not favorable
- Do not work colonies at night
- Do not leave unused beekeeping equipment or hive debris anywhere outside where bees can find it
- Only work colonies during the best part of the day...mid morning to mid afternoon
- Requeen aggressive colonies, immediately
- All queens should be marked
- If colonies are kept on land not owned by the beekeeper, but with permission of the owner, the beekeeper should have a sign conspicuously posted giving contact information
- Avoid robbing situations, stop robbing immediately if it begins
- Prevent swarming
- Make certain your insurance coverage includes coverage for honey bees
- Keep good records of all your activities, you may need them later
- The beekeeper should belong to a local beekeeping organization
- The beekeeper should have taken a beekeeping class, and be able to offer proof
- Extracting facilities should be bee-tight so bees are not escaping from the building
- Extracted honey supers should not be left outside on vehicles or in piles inviting bee visitation