



**The New Jersey
Beekeepers Association**
www.njbeekeepers.org

Welcome New Beekeeper!

2015 Member Handbook
and Reference Guide





The New Jersey Beekeepers Association

www.njbeekeepers.org

Dear New NJBA Member,

Welcome to membership in the New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA). You've joined at a critical time for the Association. Since an alarming rate of honey bee colony loss was reported about seven years ago (dubbed Colony Collapse Disorder), membership in the Association has almost tripled and hovers around 1,000 members. Many Garden State residents have become interested in beekeeping since the widespread media attention accorded the honey bee in recent years, highlighting the need to help this embattled state insect responsible for approximately one third of the food that we eat.

Whether you were attracted to beekeeping in order to help the honey bee, produce honey, beeswax or other hive products, to have a managed pollinator for your garden or just out of curiosity, you will come to find that beekeeping will sharpen your observation skills and you will become much more interested in learning when nectar and pollen sources are available, learning the names of trees, shrubs and plants that you may have paid little attention to in the past, and tracking the weather in conjunction with caring for your bees. One of the truly engrossing facets of beekeeping to me is I am always learning something new despite the fact that I have been keeping bees for about 20 years.

There is a wealth of information available from experienced beekeepers at your branch and state meetings. We've all made rookie mistakes, but many of these can be avoided by attending meetings and asking questions. I encourage you to attend meetings and ask for help if you need it!

The Association promotes and supports all aspects of beekeeping in the state. If you have skills such as writing, public relations, curriculum development, web updating, blogging, photography, videography, meeting planning or any other skill you think the Association could benefit from, consider volunteering. Contact me, president@njbeekeepers.org, to find out how you can help.

I look forward to meeting you. Please introduce yourself at the next state meeting!

Regards,

Janet A. Katz, President



The New Jersey Beekeepers Association

www.njbeekeepers.org

The New Jersey Beekeepers Association was founded in 1902. Comprised of 10 branches, we have over 1,000 members. The Association is governed by our Constitution and By-Laws and is governed by an executive board. The elected officers, a president, three vice presidents, a treasurer and a recording secretary, are elected at the annual winter meeting, typically held in February. The Constitution and By-Laws have recently been updated and revised by the executive board and was voted on by the general membership.

The New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA) is a not-for-profit all-volunteer organization dedicated to the promotion and support of all aspects of beekeeping in New Jersey. The NJBA works to educate the general public on the benefits and importance of beekeeping, teach our members how to become better and more successful beekeepers, and strives to dispel myths and misinformation regarding the honeybee. The NJBA is open to beekeepers or anyone interested in beekeeping or allied activities without discrimination as to sex, race, color or creed.

Beneath the state organization, there are ten branches throughout New Jersey. This provides a regional aspect to your membership. You can choose your primary branch based on the programs and training that they offer along with how local they are to you. Any NJBA member can join any or all of the branches by paying the branch membership fee(s).

The NJBA holds four meetings every year at various locations throughout the state. The state meetings are tied to the seasons of the year. The Winter meeting, typically held in February, is when the winners of the state Honey Show are announced. This is also the meeting when officers are elected. The Spring meeting is usually in May. The Summer meeting in August is when we have the annual picnic and equipment auction. The Fall meeting is often held in October.

The state meetings frequently have renowned speakers making presentations to the membership. Some of the recent speakers have been Thomas Seeley, Randy Oliver, Dennis vanEngelsdorp and Jennifer Berry to name a few.

The NJBA publishes a state newsletter 6 times per year. It is filled with the most current information about the state organization, upcoming state meetings, the state apiarist report, news regarding the honeybee in New Jersey, and ads for beekeeping supply companies and suppliers of queens and nucs.

If you are interested in catching swarms, the NJBA has a page for all members to register to have your name listed in the counties you will collect swarms from.

There are a number of opportunities to help within the NJBA. Run for an officer position, offer to serve on one of the many standing and ad hoc committees, help out at one of the quarterly meetings, volunteer to work on the web site, and on and on and on. Your help will always be appreciated.

2015 New Jersey Beekeeping Association Executive Board

(Please note that ALL elected state and branch officers can be found on the website: www.njbeekeeper.org)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
OFFICERS		
President	Janet Katz	president@njbeekeepers.org
1 st Vice President	Angelo Trapani	atrap69530@aol.com
2 nd Vice President	Jeff Burd	jeff.burd@comcast.net
3 rd Vice President	Chris Yates	cmyates@cmyates.com
Treasurer	Charles Ilsley	treasurer@njbeekeepers.org
Recording Secretary	Elin Hanson	lilahoneybee@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	Joe Alvarez	secretary@njbeekeepers.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

EAS Director	Jeff Burd	jeff.burd@comcast.net
Membership	Martha Doris	m.doris@comcast.net
Public Relations	Joe Alvarez	phytaman@verizon.net
	Frank Mortimer	frankmort@gmail.com
Financial & Operational Review	<i>*Volunteer Needed!</i>	
Honey Queen Program	<i>*Volunteer Needed!</i>	
Scholarships	Ray Markley	rambeeman@aol.com
USDA Grant	Joe Alvarez	phytaman@verizon.net
Annual Honey Show	Landi Simone	landi.s@verizon.net
Honey Bee Advisory Board	Landi Simone	landi.s@verizon.net

NJ APIARY INSPECTOR	Tim Schuler	(609) 462-7820	Tim.Schuler@ag.state.nj.us
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BRANCH PRESIDENTS

Central	Petronio Zalamea	PZKayaker@hotmail.com
Essex	Joseph Treimel	sailbeejoe@aol.com
Jersey Cape	Bill Eisele	beeisele@comcast.net
Mid State	Eloise Naylor	lou1799@comcast.net
Morris / Somerset	Patti Campbell	pms0255@aol.com
Northeast	Frank Mortimer	frankmort@gmail.com
Northwest	Kevin Inglin	kevvan@hotmail.com
Raritan Valley	Cynthia Werts	cynthiawerts@aol.com
South	Ned Morgan	ned.morgan@comcast.net
Sussex	Debbie Cowell	drc@warwick.net

NJBA Programs and Committees

- SCHOLARSHIP: Ray Markley, a NJBA past president and member of the South Jersey branch, oversees the scholarship program. The Association offers scholarships to New Jersey youths between the ages of 12 and 22 for attending the Rutgers Bee-ginners Beekeeping Course or any of the courses offered by the branches. In the past, the Sussex County, Essex County and Jersey Cape branches have offered courses in the winter months. Details can be found on the Education Page of the NJBA website.
- ASSOCIATION MEETINGS: Four state meetings are held during the year in the fall, winter, spring and summer. The fall and spring meetings are typically sponsored by one of the branches and usually involve speakers, such as Dr. Tom Seeley of Cornell who spoke at the Fall 2013 state meeting sponsored by the Central Jersey branch, or hands-on workshops such as the Spring 2013 meeting where there were demonstrations of inspections, checking for mites, how to apply mite treatments and how to harvest honey from a hive. The winter and summer meetings are run by the state Association. The winter meeting has speakers and the auctioning of the first place winning entries in the annual honey show. The summer meeting is a picnic and auction of beekeeping equipment. Members can bring used beekeeping equipment for auction. These two auctions are the primary fund raisers for the state Association.
- THE ANNUAL HONEY SHOW: This is a chance for all members in good standing to enter their honey, beeswax and hive products in a competition for ribbons, cash prizes and bragging rights. There are 23 classes of entries from extracted, comb and creamed honey to beeswax blocks, candles, novelty items and tapers to cosmetics containing beeswax and photography. Details on the honey show are published in the December-January issue of the Association newsletter, and can be found on the NJBA website.
- ANNUAL WINTER LOSS SURVEY: Working with our State Apiarist Tim Schuler the Association conducts an annual survey of winter losses. The brief survey is mailed to all members on April 1st. Members are asked questions on feeding, treating for mites, origin of dead hives. The survey asks members to note how many hives were alive on Thanksgiving and how many were alive on March 31st. Tim Schuler uses the data to help determine the best treatment types and times and feeding needs and communicates the data collected to all members.
- NEWSLETTERS: The Association publishes six newsletters per year. New members receive the newsletter in hardcopy format via regular mail. However, members may opt to receive the newsletter electronically, in PDF format, via email. Just send an email to EmailOnly@njbeekeepers.org stating your delivery preference. The newsletter editor is Central Jersey member and First Vice President Angelo Trapani, who welcomes contributions.

NJBA Programs and Committees

- **BEEKEEPING CALENDAR**: For the third year, the Association has offered “A Year in New Jersey Beekeeping” calendar. Written by our State Apiarist Tim Schuler, designed by Northwest Member Rebecca Wunderlich and edited by NJBA President Janet Katz, the calendar has information covering the basics of what New Jersey beekeepers should be doing each month. In addition to information about bee-friendly plants and common mistakes to avoid, the calendar contains about three dozen member photographs relating to beekeeping. Calendars are available from your branch at \$10 each.
- **SWARM PAGE**: Swarm season in New Jersey typically runs from late April through June. As a service to the public, the NJBA maintains a list of beekeepers who are willing to collect hanging swarms or to remove honey bees from insides structures. The list is compiled each March and is open to members in good standing, i.e., that have paid their dues for the year. Members are contacted by email in March with information on how to get listed. It is suggested that you have experience collecting swarms before listing yourself on the page. It is also suggested that you have experience with structural removals before listing yourself on the page, and that you are prepared to not only removed the bees, but remove all the honey, comb and brood, leaving the structure clean and ready for repair. The page is located at <http://cjba.njbeekeepers.org/> and is programmed by Geff Vitale of the Central Jersey branch.
- **HONEY & HIVE PRODUCT PAGES**: Located at <http://www.njbeekeepers.org/BeeProducts.htm>, members in good standing can list their honey, hive and beekeeping services and links to their websites, if they have one. Send the pertinent information to info@njbeekeepers.org, making sure to indicate the name your membership is listed under and your branch.
- **HONEY QUEEN PROGRAM**: During 2012, an NJBA Honey Queen Workgroup was formed headed by Grant Stiles and members Mark Muller, Tim Schuler, Gary Schempp, Charles Ilsley and Joan Morris. Their goal was to define the program, its administrator, the duties of a honey queen or princess, document a program and funding allocated. After the Workgroup made their recommendations and received funding from the NJBA Executive Board, a committee needed to be formed. Morris-Somerset member Joan Morris did some preliminary work on creating the program, including attending a how-to Webinar provided by the National Chair. We are currently seeking a member to chair the committee and solicit members from the other branches as they work in 2015 to get the program up and running.
- **ANNUAL PICNIC & AUCTION**: Typically held in August, this is a fun event where members can bring beekeeping equipment that is in good shape to auction. Members have found bargains on everything from woodenware, to feeders, foundation, glassware and extracting equipment. A portion of the proceeds of each sale goes to the NJBA. A relaxing atmosphere with a BBQ, lots of bee talk and the opportunity to find a bargain or find a new home for that equipment you no longer use.

NJBA Programs and Committees

- **LEGISLATION:** There are currently two bills the NJBA is championing that have very positive ramifications for beekeepers in the state. Sponsored by Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer, A1294 would extend the Right to Farm Act protections to commercial beekeepers. A1295 preempts municipalities by establishing the State's exclusive authority with regard to regulation of apiary activities. These were both passed by the Assembly in June, 2014. The Senate versions of the bills, S1328 and S1975 are still in the Economic Growth Committee, and have not been posted for a vote. How members can support these bills will be communicated in the state newsletter and via email.
- **HIVE REGISTRATION:** New Jersey law requires that all bee yards in the state where bees are overwintering be registered annually with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. You can register or update your registration at http://www24.state.nj.us/agriculture/AG_NJFARMS/welcome.html. Please read the directions before you start the process.
- **BEEKEEPER NOTIFICATION:** With certain restrictions, New Jersey law requires that pesticide applicators notify registered beekeepers when pesticides that are labeled as hazardous to bees are applied within three miles of a registered bee yard. A link to the registration form can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo-bee.htm> and must be submitted annually prior to March 1, 2015. A list of registered bee yards can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/pcp/bpo/beelist.pdf>.

To report pesticide damage:

NJDEP – During working hours (609) 984-6568; after hours 1-877-927-6337

- **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:** Once you have joined one of the branches of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, you are eligible for an Associate Membership at any of the other nine branches at a cost of only \$8 annually. This entitles you to receive their emails and newsletter, if they have one, as well as attend their meetings. Most branches welcome members from other branches to their meetings even without an Associate Membership.
- **BEEKEEPING COURSES:** Several sessions of beekeeping courses taught by State Apiarist Tim Schuler and former NJBA President Bob Hughes are sponsored by Rutgers in Bordentown, with the first one typically starting in April. In recent years, there has also been a more advanced course offered. In addition, the Jersey Cape, Sussex, Essex and Northeast branches offer beekeeping courses. Check the Education page on the NJBA website for current information: <http://www.njbeekeepers.org/Education.htm>.

BEEKEEPING CLASSES

Below is a list of the beginning beekeeping classes that are offered throughout the state. It is strongly recommended that you take a beekeeping class if you have not already done so. These classes will teach you the basics needed to be successful beekeeper such as honeybee biology, equipment needed, diseases and pests, how to work a hive and what to look for when doing a hive inspection.

- **Rutgers Continuing Education classes**

- ***Bee-ginner's BeeKeeping, The Basics of Apiculture***

- Class 1: April 23, 24, 25 - 2015 / Class 2: May 21, 22, 23 – 2015 / Class 3: October 22, 23, 24 - 2015

- Classes are taught at Rutgers EcoComplex

- 1200 Florence-Columbus Road

- Bordentown, NJ 08505

- Registration fee: \$190.00; \$165.00 for NJBA members

- Beyond the Basics of Beekeeping: June 2015

- Class taught at Rutgers University New Brunswick

- <http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu/courses/current/ae0401ca.html>

- ***Beyond the Basics: Practical Hive Management Tools for Beekeepers***

- June 11-12, 2015 from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

- Floriculture Greenhouse

- 64 Nichol Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

- Registration fee: \$295.00 before May 28, 2015, \$325.00 after May 28, 2015

- **Jersey Cape Branch of NJBA & Rutgers Cooperative Extension**

- ***Bee-ginners Beekeeping Course***

- 7 consecutive Friday evenings starting February 6, 2015 from 7pm – 9pm; 8th session when bees arrive

- Classes are taught at:

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office

- 355 Courthouse-So. Dennis Road

- Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

- Registration fee: varies depending on if you are also purchasing hive equipment and honey bees.

- Contact Bill Eisele at beeisele@comcast.net for more information

- **Essex County Branch of NJBA**

- ***Basic Beekeeping***

- Two Saturdays in February 2015 plus a Field Day with the bees in April

- Classes are taught at:

- Garibaldi Hall, Essex County Environmental Center

- 621B Eagle Rock Avenue

- Roseland, NJ 07068.

- Registration fee: \$150, which includes one year NJBA membership, class materials, continental breakfast, and afternoon snack.

This course will take you through a full year of beekeeping, and teach you everything you need to get started, from equipment, through management, biology, pest control, and harvest. Class size is limited to 40 students. For more information, contact Patty Gamsby, bjornlass@aol.com, (973) 396-8996.

- **Sussex County Branch of NJBA**

- ***Introduction to Beekeeping***

- The Sussex County branch typically offers a short course at the Sussex County Fairground Administration Building in January. Contact Debbie Cowell – drc@warwick.net

- **Delaware Valley College Doylestown, Pennsylvania**

Classes include *Introductory Beekeeping, Intermediate Beekeeping, Queen Rearing*. Contact them for more information. <http://www.delval.edu/continuing-and-professional-studies/non-credit-certificates-and-courses/beekeeping1>

Resource Guide for Beekeeping Information

PERIODICALS

- *American Bee Journal* <http://www.dadant.com/journal/>
- *Bee Culture* <http://www.bee-culture.com/>

WEBSITES

American Beekeeping Federation <http://www.abfnet.org>
 County Health Departments <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/county.html>

BEEKEEPING BOOKS *(Recommended)*

The Backyard Beekeeper - Revised and Updated: An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Keeping Bees in Your Yard and Garden by Kim Flottum. Paperback, 208 pages. Publication date: February 1, 2010

The Beekeeper's Handbook Fourth Edition by Alphonse Avitabile and Diana Sammataro. Paperback, 272 pages. Publication date: May 13, 2011

Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture by Ross Conrad and Gary Paul Nabhan. Paperback, 240 pages. Publication date: June 13, 2007

First Lessons in Beekeeping by Keith S. Delaplane. Paperback, 176 pages. Publication date: September 1, 2007

Beekeeping Basics by Mid Atlantic Apiculture Research & Extension Consortium (MAAREC). Free pdf download available at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/agrs93.pdf>

Beekeeping for Dummies Third Edition, by Howland Blackiston. Paperback, 432 pages. Publication date: March 2, 2015

The Hive and the Honeybee revised edition by Roy A. Grout. Hardback, 1324 pages. Publication date: July 1992

The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture: An Encyclopedia Pertaining to the Scientific and Practical Culture of Honey Bees 41st edition by Amos Ives Root (Author), Ann Harman (Author, Editor), Dr. Hachiro Shimanuki (Author, Editor), Kim Flottum (Author, Editor). Hardback, 911 pages. Publication date: May 1, 2007

Honey Bee Democracy by Tom Seeley. 280 pages. Published October 10, 2010.

BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS

- Mann Lake Ltd.: www.mannlakeltd.com
- Better Bee, Inc.: www.betterbee.com
- Brushy Mountain Bee Farms: www.brushymountainbeefarm.com
- Dadant and Sons, Inc.: www.dadant.com
- Glory Bee: www.glorybee.com
- Walter T. Kelley Co.: www.kelleybees.com
- Blue Sky: www.blueskybeesupply.com
- Pigeon Mountain Trading www.pigeonmountaintrading.com

NEW JERSEY EQUIPMENT & HONEY BEE SUPPLIERS

(Please note that the appearance of a vendor's name in the Handbook supplier list does not imply endorsement of, or assurance of, quality by the NJBA)

Please visit www.njbeepkeepers.org for an expanded listing

Company Name	Address	Telephone #	Equipment	Queens	Packages	Nucs
Charles Toth	38 Van Cleef Rd., Somerset, NJ 08873	732-873-2989		Y		Y
George Schaefer	360 Old York Rd., Flemington, NJ 08822	908-782-7912				Y
Harvey's Honey	912 Route 40, Monroeville, NJ 08343	856-358-1010	Y	Y		
Larry Saums	378 Rick Rd., Milford, NJ 08848	908-735-6946			Y	
E & M Gold	113 Hope Rd., Tinton Falls, NJ 07724	732-542-6528		Y		Y
S & F Honey Farm, Inc.	57 Amwell Road, Flemington, NJ 08822	908-782-7525	Y	Y	Y	
Stiles Apiaries, LLC	859 King George Road, Fords, NJ 08863	732-661-0700				Y
Thomas J. Webb	920 Route 519, Sussex, NJ 07461	973-875-3889	Y		Y	
Stewart's Apiaries	34 Cape May Ave., Dorothy, NJ 08317	609-4626-2819		Y		Y
Wayne Sommers	Toms River, NJ	732-597-3715			Y	
Wilson's Honey		518-497-6723			Y	
Evan's Cedar Beehives	Marmora, NJ	856-457-4572	Y			

HONEY LABELING INFORMATION

The label that you put on your bottles, jars or containers of honey must contain at a minimum certain information. Your labels must communicate the following:

- The “Common” Name of the Product

The word “honey” must be visible on the label. The name of a plant or blossom may be used if it is the primary floral source for the honey. Honey must be labeled with its common or usual name on the front of your package. [i.e. “Honey” or “Clover Honey” or “Wildflower Honey”]

- Net Weight

The net weight of your product (excluding packaging), both in pounds/ounces and metric weight (g) must be included in the lower third of your front label panel in easy-to-read type. [i.e. Net Wt. 16 oz. (454g)]. When determining net weight, use the government conversion factor of 1 ounce (oz) = 28.3495 grams or 1 pound (lb.) = 453.592 grams. Round after making the calculation not before. Use no more than three digits after the decimal point on the package. One may round down the final weight to avoid overstating the contents. When rounding, use typical mathematical rounding rules.

- Ingredients

Single ingredient products (such as honey) do not have to name that single ingredient when already used in the common or usual name on the front panel. However, if there are ingredients other than honey, you must list them in an ingredient statement. Some exceptions are spices, flavorings and incidental additives (additives which have no functional role and with minimal presence in the finished product) which have special rules. The type size for ingredient listings must be no less than 1/16 inch as measured by the small letter “o” or by the large letter “O” if all caps are used in the declaration. There are exemptions that allow smaller type sizes for small packages.

- Contact Information

The label must let consumers know who put the product on the market and how to contact that person. The name and the address of the manufacturer, packer or distributor of a packaged food product are required to appear on the label of the packaged food. This information, sometimes referred to as the “signature line” must appear on the front label panel or the information panel. If space permits, include full address and telephone number. The information must be in a type size that is at least 1/16th inch tall.

For more information on labeling, please visit the National Honey Board at: www.honey.com



WEBSITES TO KNOW

New Jersey Beekeepers Association

Website: <http://njbeekeepers.org>

New Jersey Department of Agriculture Bee Inspection Program

Website: <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/beeinspection.html>

This website provides the hive registration form, the New Jersey statutes regarding beekeeping, and various beekeeping fact sheets prepared by the state apiarist.

Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research & Extension Consortium (MAAREC)

Website: <https://agdev.anr.udel.edu/maarec/>

MAAREC is a task force that has been established with representation from the departments of agriculture, state beekeeping organizations, and land-grant universities from each of the following states: New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. Also participating in the task force is a representative of the USDA/ARS (Beltsville Bee Lab, MD). The focus of MAAREC research has been on the identification of alternatives to chemical controls and promotion of less reliance on chemical pesticides for mite control. Included is research of integrated approaches to reduce mite pressure and development of an economic injury level (threshold) for fall mite control within an IPM framework. Sampling method efficacy for measuring mite numbers in bee colonies is also a high priority. Research objectives take into consideration apiary inspector and beekeeper input through the MAAREC Task Force and the use of tools such as beekeeper surveys to identify the most effective ways to assist beekeepers in understanding and making sound management decisions for mite and disease control.

The Bee Informed Partnership

Website: <http://beeinformed.org/>

The Bee Informed Partnership is an extension project that endeavors to decrease the number of honey bee colonies that die over the winter. The project proposes to help beekeepers keep colonies alive by initiating several levels of surveys. These surveys will document which management practices beekeepers use and the degree of loss suffered by those beekeepers. Using methods developed by human epidemiologists, we will compare the effectiveness of different management practices by calculating and comparing the losses suffered by those that did or did not use a particular management practice. In recognition of the fact that the most appropriate management practices for a beekeeper in one region are not necessarily the same for beekeepers in other regions, we will develop web- and app-based tools that will enable beekeepers to interact with the survey data to permit them to compare management practices among groups of beekeepers that share their geography, purpose (e.g., honey production, pollination), and/or management philosophy (e.g., minimal pesticide use). To facilitate this level of engagement, we will develop a honey bee health database that will act as a repository for all honey bee health data collected from this and other bee health surveillance projects.



Guidelines for Keeping Bees in Populated Areas

There are approximately 2,000 to 2,500 registered beekeepers in New Jersey. Of these, only about 2 percent can be considered commercial beekeepers having 20 or more colonies of bees. The majority of the registered beekeepers in the state manage only about 1 to 10 colonies.



It is possible to keep honey bees in crowded suburban areas, on tiny city lots or on rooftops in large or small cities without problems. However, keeping bees successfully in a populated area requires a good understanding of basic bee biology, property rights and human psychology. Beekeepers in suburbs and cities need to manage their bees so they do not become a nuisance to their neighbors. By understanding the circumstances under which bees will bother people, beekeepers can take measures to alter circumstances so their bees do not create a problem.

Honey bees can be kept almost anywhere there are flowering plants that produce nectar and pollen. Choose a site for beehives that is discrete, sheltered from winds and partially shaded. Avoid low spots in a yard where cold, damp air accumulates in winter. Be considerate of nonbeekeeping neighbors. Place hives so that bee flight paths do not cross sidewalks, playgrounds or other public areas. Provide your bees with a water source in your yard to prevent them from seeking out water at neighbors' swimming pools or water spigots.



The Department has developed the following best management practices for beekeepers to reduce potential conflict with neighboring property owners.

1. There must be no more than three hives of honey bees per lot size of one-quarter acre or less.
2. No hive of honey bees will be maintained within 15 feet of a boundary line of the property on which the hive is located.
3. All colonies must be located at least 25 feet from a public sidewalk, alley, street or roads.
4. All apiaries must have on site an adequate source of water within 25 feet of the hive(s) at all times (especially between March 1st and October 31st).
5. A 6-foot high solid fence or hedge must be erected if the colonies are within 10 feet of a neighbor's property.
6. All bee equipment and hives must be maintained in good condition.
7. All colonies must be kept in moveable frame hives in accordance with N.J.S.A.4: 6-10.
8. All colonies must be inspected by the beekeeper or his delegate no less than three times between March 1 and October 1 of each year.
9. A substantial barrier/ fence must be erected to prevent animals and children from coming into close contact with the hives.