Domestic Bees FAQs
An overview for homeowners

What are the maximum number of hives I may have?
Properties must have a minimum of 4,000 sq. ft. to have an apiary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hives</th>
<th>Area Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 hives</td>
<td>4,000 sq. ft to 11,000 sq. ft</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 hives</td>
<td>11,001 sq. ft to 43,560 sq. ft</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 or more hives</td>
<td>43,560 sq. ft or more: 4 hives plus 1 additional hive per 3,000 sq. ft. of lot area over 43,560 sq. ft</td>
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What is a flyway barrier?
- A flyway barrier is a barrier consisting of either a wall, solid fence, dense vegetation intended to force bees to fly at least six feet above the hive.

Can I sell the honey I get from my hives?
- Yes! Sale operations from home-based business need to first obtain a Home-Occupation permit and business license. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has more information about honey sales: https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-beekeeping-apiary-inspection.shtml.

Where may I place hives on my property?
Hives must be placed in the rear yard, and meet the following setbacks:
- 25 feet from a street, sidewalk, or a lot line
- 35 feet from adjacent houses
- 50 feet from penned/kenneled animals
- 50 feet from educational facilities, child care/day-care centers, assisted living facilities, etc.

What is involved in the care and maintenance of apiaries?
- Water: Fresh water must be located within 20 ft. of hives.
- Flyway barriers: Barriers must be placed parallel between the hive opening and within 25 ft. of lot lines. Wall and solid fence barriers must be between 6 ft. to 7 ft. tall. If vegetation barriers are used, the plants must be at least 4 ft. tall, but may grow taller than 7 ft.

What are the application requirements?
- **Zoning Certification**: The application is found on the City website, and has a $50 application fee.
- **House Location Survey**: This is a scaled survey created by a Land Surveyor that shows an aerial view of your property. The proposed apiary location should be drawn on it, along with the distance to the property lines.
- **Bee and Apiary Form**: This form is found on the City website and indicated the applicants understanding of the City code section for apiaries.

When is a permit not required?
- If existing hives are replaced.

For more information, email permitstatus@manassasva.gov, call 703-257-8247, or visit manassasva.gov/permits
City of Manassas Community Development Department
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I no longer wish to have an apiary.
How do I safely remove a domestic bee colony?

- The Prince William regional Beekeepers Association maintains a list of services that can safely remove a domestic bee colony:

What resources are available to learn more about domestic bees?

- The Prince William Regional Beekeepers Association has a wealth of resources concerning the keeping of domestic honeybees at www.pwrbeekeepers.com.

- The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has additional information and resources:
  https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-beekeeping-apiary-inspection.shtml

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