

Sample Honeybee Management Plan

Concept: Up to XX hives on a second story roof managed by XX.

Types of honeybees to be kept: Minnesota Hygienic Bees

Location and Description of Water Source

A clean water source will be placed near the hives and regularly checked. See attached sketch of property and photo of hives.

Hive Upkeep and Maintenance

Biweekly, realizing that inspections may vary depending upon the season and weather. Inspections will be made for disease and mites, possible swarming, overall health of the colony, adequate food/water and to make sure the hives with removable frames are operating correctly. We anticipate supplemental feeding during the colder months (spring and fall before and after flowers are available).

Flyway Barrier: *If the hives entrance will be located within 25 feet of any property line, please describe flyway barrier. Requirements are outlined in section 63.100(f)(1) of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances (Attachment 5 in this packet).*

Flyway barrier not required in this case because the hives are located on a second story rooftop.

Latching Fence

Latching Fence not required in this case because the hives are located at a site that is not accessible to the public.

Colony Management

The hives shall be maintained so as not to be a nuisance. Hives will be divided as necessary including adding more boxes for the hive to grow into. Management is scheduled around natural nectar flows in order to reach maximum strength before the nectar flows begin.

An important element of beekeeping is maintaining a healthy queen and in particular to ensure that a hive does not swarm. Our regular inspections especially during the month of May and June will reveal the situation. We need to observe the key indicators: no empty cells for the queen to lay eggs in, no eggs, fewer bees, or all the cells have only older larvae and/or capped brood. A poorly performing queen can contribute to the swarming impulse and we may need to requeen.

In our colony management, we anticipate using a queen excluder so that the worker bees can easily pass through the wire mesh and the queens cannot (it should also exclude the drones.)

Honey supers will be added and subtracted depending upon how large the colony is during the course of the season. No wax comb or other material will be left on the grounds.

Harvesting

We anticipate annual fall harvests either using our own extractor or Bees Kneez' extractor as appropriate. In the first season, we may not be harvesting in order to ensure that the bees survive the winter.