



# BEE FACTS AND SAFETY

## HONEY BEES OR NATIVE BEES?

Honey bees are from Europe and came to the Americas through agriculture use and accidental release. Our native bees are mostly mason bees, bumblebees, and other small solitary bees.

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## BEE HIVES

Honey bees nest in large colonies. Native bees nest singularly or in small colonies. Honey bees place large hives in trees, walls, or bee boxes. Paper hives are wasps, not bees.

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## SWARMS

- Bees finding new homes **swarm**.
- Swarms are large clumps of bees and rarely sting or attack.
- If you are too close, bees will flash their wings in swarms.
- Swarms away from homes can be left in place.

## REMOVAL

- The PED does NOT remove bees.
- The PED CAN assist with helping community members find services for removal.
- Never attempt to remove hives or swarms yourself.
- Bees “swarming” around water or trash can be remedied by removing or reducing the source.



## ATTRACT POLLINATORS!

Bees and other pollinators are vital for healthy wildlands and growing food. Attract bees to the garden by planting native wildflowers, have water (a “bee bath”), have some open ground for native bees to nest, and avoid spraying pesticides.

