



Village of River Forest
Intent to Keep Bees
Adjacent Property* Owner/Renter Notification



Name _____

Address of apiary _____

Please Note: Upon receipt of this notice from the applicant, the adjacent resident may file a written objection to the applicant's permit application within 7 business days if any member in their household suffers anaphylaxis. If the resident can provide a document from a licensed physician that confirms a certified anaphylactic reaction to bee stings by a member of the household then the application will be disqualified for consideration.

FAQs on Honey Bees and Bee Safety

1. Why and when do honey bees sting?

Honey bees sting in order to protect their nest or hive, which is where their young are raised and their food is stored. Thus they are likely to sting only near the hive and only when they perceive a threat to the hive. Only female honey bees can sting, and each bee can sting only once, since the stinger is pulled from the bee's body in the act of stinging, which causes the bee's death. (Winston, The Biology of the Honey Bee, 1987)

2. How dangerous is a honey bee sting?

Unless a person has a bee sting allergy, the average person can safely tolerate 10 stings per pound of body weight. The average adult can withstand more than 1000 stings, although 500 stings could kill a child. It is estimated that in the United States, about 50 deaths per year, or about one death per 6.5 million people, are attributable to bee stings.

3. How common are allergic reactions to honey bee stings?

About 0.6% of the population have allergies to the venom of stinging bugs, including bees, wasps, hornets, and fire ants. Of these, a smaller percentage is at risk for the most severe allergic reaction, known as anaphylaxis. Although anaphylaxis can be life-threatening, immediate treatment, for example injection with an EpiPen, will usually reverse the reaction.

4. Are there tests for bee allergies?

Allergy skin tests and allergy blood tests are often used together to diagnose insect allergies, which can include allergies to yellow jackets, hornets, and wasps as well as bees.

5. Is a swarm of honey bees dangerous?

A swarm is a group of bees that are temporarily resting on a tree branch or other elevated structure while they look for a new cavity in which to live. They are not prone to sting under these conditions unless physically disturbed. Most swarms will leave within 1-3 days of first landing.

6. Are there Africanized bees in Illinois?

Africanized bees are located in the southern U.S. and are unlikely to spread more northward in the near future. If you live in an area without Africanized bees today, it is unlikely they will be moving into the area anytime soon.

7. What's the difference between bees and wasps?



BEE



WASP

Wasps are shiny, with no noticeable hairs. Bees appear fuzzy or hairy. Wasps are carnivores and may be attracted to meat as well as sweet soft drinks. Bees do not eat meat and generally are not attracted to soft drinks. Yellow jackets are a type of wasp that people often confuse with honey bees. Yellow jackets can sting multiple times without losing their life. Honey bees can sting only once and die after stinging.

FAQ References:

BuzzAboutBees.net: <https://www.buzzaboutbees.net/bee-sting-facts.html>

Cleveland Clinic: <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/insect-sting-allergies>

WebMD: <https://www.webmd.com/allergies/insect-stings#1>

Mayo Clinic: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/bee-stings/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20353874>

Mississippi State University Extension: <https://blogs.msucare.com/honeybees/faqs/>

Bee Spotter: <https://beespotter.org/topics/stings/>

University of Minnesota Bee Lab

(PDF): https://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu/files/bees_wasps.pdf

Other Resources on Bees and Bee Safety

University of Minnesota Bee Lab

Buzz About Bees

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Local Resources

Dominican Bee Project:

- Scott Kreher, Biology, skreher@dom.edu
- Tama Weisman, Philosophy, tweisman@dom.edu
- Ellen McManus, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, emcmanus@dom.edu, 708-524-6457

For other questions or concerns,
please contact the Village at 708-366-8500.

** Adjacent property owner/renter: All persons or entities that reside or own real property that shares property line(s) with the beekeeping applicant. Municipalities and/or utilities are not considered adjacent property owners.*