

to register with the Oregon State Department of Agriculture. They can be contacted at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/IPP/M/InsectsSpiders/Pages/BeesApiaries.aspx>

How do I file a complaint?

Contact Marion County Code Enforcement at (503) 373-4333 or email at

enforcement@co.marion.or.us

How do you determine if a violation occurred?

Code Enforcement will conduct an inspection to determine whether a violation has, occurred. If a violation occurred, a citation may be issued. After a citation is issued, a hearing will be held before a Marion County Hearings Officer. The Hearings Officer will issue an order as to whether the alleged violation did, in fact, occur, and the appropriate civil penalty. The property owner shall also be required to pay an administrative charge for hearing costs.

Are complainants required to identify themselves?

No. However, anonymous complaints may be given a lower priority as they may not be as reliable as those made by citizens willing to identify themselves. Also, citizens providing their name, address and/or phone number will be informed of the enforcement investigation results. Complainant information will be kept confidential to the fullest extent allowed by Oregon law."

What other resources are available?

- Oregon Beekeepers Association
<https://orsba.org/>
- Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association
<https://wvbahive.org/>
- The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/IPP/InsectsSpiders/Pages/BeesApiaries.aspx>



Marion County
OREGON



Backyard Beekeeping



Regulations

Marion County Public Works
5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem OR 97305
Phone: (503) 588-5036 Fax: (503) 589-3284



Does the County regulate “backyard” Beekeeping?

Yes. The County regulates residential beekeeping on property under Marion County jurisdiction inside urban growth boundaries through County Code Chapter 6.20

What is considered a “Bee”?

“Bee” means honey-producing insects of the genus *Apis* and includes the adults, eggs, larvae, pupae, and other immature stages thereof, together with such materials as are deposited into hives by their adults except honey and beeswax in rendered form, excluding African honey bees.

“Community garden” means a lot or parcel of land gardened collectively by a group of people or gardened individually in individual allotments.

“Hive” means any receptacle or container made or prepared for use of bees, or a box or similar container taken possession of by bees.

What are the Backyard Beekeeping Standards in Marion County?

Bees may be kept at any residence, community garden, or on any lot owned by a school, governmental agency or religious organization on properties zoned single-family residential (RS) or urban development (UD) in Marion County subject to the following standards and limitations:

Number of Hives

Lots up to 5,000 square feet, may have one hive; however, the maximum number of hives may be temporarily increased to two during the months of April through August of each calendar year to accommodate the formation of additional hives through the splitting of existing hives or collection of swarms.

Lots between 5,001 feet and 20,000 feet may have three hives; however, the maximum number of hives may be temporarily increased to four, during the months of April through August of each calendar year to accommodate the formation of additional hives through the splitting of existing hives or collection of swarms.

Lots that are greater than 20,000 feet may have up to five hives; however, the maximum number of hives may be temporarily increased to seven during the months of April through August of each calendar year to accommodate the formation of additional hives through the splitting of existing hives or collection of swarms.

Setbacks

Hives shall comply with the setback requirements of the zone in which they are located. Where a main building is located on a property, hives shall be located in the side or rear yard.

If a hive is located within 25 feet of a property line, either:

A flyaway barrier of at least six feet in height shall be maintained parallel to the property line for a minimum of 10 feet in either direction of the hive. The flyaway barrier shall consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof;

Or the hive shall be elevated a minimum of 10 feet above ground level.

What other standards need to be followed?

A constant supply of water shall be provided for the bees within 15 feet of each hive on the property where the bees are located.

Each beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or wax is left upon the property grounds to prevent robbing from other bees and attracting predators.

Hives shall be maintained in a condition such that the bees do not produce noise or odor that creates a nuisance for adjacent properties.

If a hive or group of hives is located at a community garden or on any lot owned by a school, government agency, or religious organization, a sign warning of hives shall be installed at the primary public entrance to the property. Warning signs shall be at least 10 inches by 10 inches.

Do I need a permit to have bees on my property?

No. Currently Marion County is not requiring a permit in order to have a hive of bees. However, Beekeepers may be required