

With Record Bee Losses, Swarmed Prepares Communities for 2025 Swarm Season

Platform connects 10,000+ beekeepers nationwide as swarm season brings opportunity to protect millions of bees seeking new homes

DAVIS, CA – April 15, 2025 – As temperatures rise across North America, honey bee colonies are creating swarms. Swarmed, the national bee swarm reporting tool, is beginning to alert its network of over 10,000 beekeepers to help protect bee colonies during spring and summer swarming season.

Data from Project Apis m. shows commercial beekeepers lost an average of 62% of their colonies from June 2024 to February 2025, highlighting the need to protect every bee colony that can be saved. When honey bee colonies swarm, they're seeking new homes, but without intervention from beekeepers, less than 25% survive on their own, according to research by Thomas Seeley of Cornell University.

In the past year, Swarmed has sent over 100,000 swarm alerts to beekeepers nationwide, helping relocate 76 million bees and saving beekeepers an estimated \$490,000 in colony replacement and upkeep costs. The platform provides a referral path for non-emergency bee situations.

"Bee colonies appearing near homes are common and manageable during swarm season," said Mateo Kaiser, Managing Director of Swarmed and UC Davis California Master Beekeeper. "Local beekeepers can safely relocate colonies, typically within hours of a report to protect the community and the bees."

Swarm Season: What Communities Need to Know

Swarm season typically runs from March through September across most of North America, with peak activity occurring when daytime temperatures reach 60-80°F (16-28°C) after several days of warming weather. Activity can continue through August and September in areas where temperatures remain high. During this time, strong colonies naturally split, with thousands of bees leaving their hive with their queen to establish new homes.

"The sooner a beekeeper can assess the situation, the better for both the bees and the public's peace of mind," Kaiser explains. Swarms are not aggressive but are vulnerable to weather, pesticides, extermination, and unethical removal methods.

How Swarmed Works

When someone spots a bee swarm or established colony, they report it at beeswarmed.org. The tool immediately alerts local beekeepers within the reporter's area, with most reports being answered in under 15 minutes. Many bee colony relocations are provided at no cost

as a community service, though complex established colony extractions may involve fees that beekeepers discuss directly with property owners.

Swarmed connects communities with beekeepers across the United States and works with municipal services, emergency dispatch centers, community organizations, and over 50 beekeeping associations.

Supporting Pollinator Recovery

With over 60% of managed bee colonies lost this past winter, every relocated swarm contributes to pollinator population recovery. Organizations can share Swarmed as a resource to help reduce unnecessary extermination calls while giving communities a way to respond to bee situations.

Swarmed is a satellite partner of the California Master Beekeeper Program at the University of California, Davis, and maintains the largest public dataset of honey bee swarm reports ever compiled.

Resources for Communities

- **Report a swarm:** beeswarmed.org/report-swarm
- **Information for municipalities:** [Ready-to-use materials](#) for emergency services and community organizations

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About Swarmed: Swarmed is a resource connecting communities with local beekeepers for safe honey bee colony relocation. The service helps protect pollinator populations while providing bee-friendly referrals for bee-related situations, supporting both community safety and our ecosystems.