

How can I Help

If you think you have a swarm of honey bees:

Try and ensure they are Honey Bees and **not** Wasps or Bumble Bees.

Ring a swarm collector.

Please give accurate information.

⇒ A post code and address as well as a contact name and number.

⇒ Where the bees are situated:

- In a tree?
- How far off the ground?
- Will a ladder be required?

⇒ Do they represent a potential danger to the public?

- Overhanging a footpath?
- In school grounds?

Keep the bee keeper updated. *(He does not want to drive 20 miles to be told the swarm departed just after you rang!!)*

Swarm Collection is a Free Service provided by the BBKA



www.bbka.org.uk

Please contact:

Mid Bucks Bee Keepers Association
(MBBKA)

British Bee Keepers Association (BBKA)

MBBKA Swarm Hotline 07770370132
or

The BBKA (British Bee Keepers Association) website is
<http://www.bbka.org.uk>

This website will provide you with further information on swarms and allow you to contact the swarm collector nearest to you



www.mbbka.org.uk

Honeybee Swarms



Local Bee Keepers Need Your Help



Swarming

Swarming is the term used to describe the normal method by which honey bee colonies reproduce. Through swarming a group of bees separate from their single, large honey bee colony and settle elsewhere to form a second colony. Although swarming is usually an undesirable aspect of beekeeping it can be used by the beekeeper to expand his or her stock of colonies.

For a bee colony to propagate, it is forced to produce another queen, as a colony usually only has one queen bee present at any one time. Swarming normally takes place when the colony is at its largest and the weather is reasonable enough for the swarm to depart and find another home.

There is a swarm in my garden

Try not to panic!!!

A swarm arriving can be a frightening sight. Generally these swarms are very docile and the swarming Bees usually will not sting. When Honey Bees swarm they gorge themselves with honey before leaving the hive which makes it very hard for them to double over and sting.

If the bees are flying around, stand still and wait for them to settle.



Swarms such as the ones pictured are merely Colonies that are in transition. Normally these Swarms are found hanging from tree branch, fence post or any place where the swarm can gather close to the Queen while scouts are sent out to look for a more permanent home. A swarm left alone will only be in place from just a few minutes to a few hours and occasionally a few days.



If You See a Swarm:

Declining Honey Bee numbers make the collection of swarms an important part of the work of bee keepers. You should never interfere with a swarm and pest control companies will not kill a swarm unless absolutely necessary.

The British Bee keepers Association (BBKA) and the Mid Bucks Bee Keepers Association (MBBKA) have swarm collectors throughout the local area.

