

# City of Littleton

City Code Ordinance  
Title 10  
ZONING REGULATIONS

Chapter 4  
Supplementary Standards

10-4-14: BEEKEEPING:

(A) Definitions: The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have meanings ascribed to them in this section:

**APIARY:** A place where one or more beehives are kept.

**BEE:** The adult stage of the common domestic honeybee, *Apis mellifera* species.

**BEEKEEPER:** Any person who owns or maintains a bee colony.

**COLONY:** A hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood.

**HIVE:** A structure intended for the housing of one bee colony. A hive, including the attached honey supers, shall not exceed twelve (12) cubic feet in size.

**ROBBING:** The pilfering of honey from a weak colony by other honeybees or insects.

**TRACT:** A contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.

(B) Hives: All bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.

(C) Setback: All hives shall be located at least five feet (5') from any adjoining property with the back of the hive facing the nearest adjoining property.

(D) Fencing Of Flyways: In each instance in which any colony is situated within twenty five feet (25') of a developed public or private property line of the tract upon which the apiary is situated, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six feet (6') in height consisting of a solid wall or fence parallel to the property line and extending ten feet (10') beyond the colony in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six feet (6') above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the apiary.

(E) Water: Each property owner or beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times to the bees so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools, bibcocks, pet water bowls, birdbaths or other water sources where they may cause human, bird or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

(F) Maintenance: Each property owner or beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that might encourage robbing are left upon the grounds of the apiary site. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee proof enclosure.

(G) Queens: In any instance in which a colony exhibits usually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to requeen the colony. Queens shall be selected from stock bred for gentleness and nonswarming characteristics.

(H) Colony Densities:

1. It shall be unlawful to keep any colony on a multiple-family lot or to keep more than the following number of colonies on any tract within the city, based upon the size or configuration of the tract on which the apiary is situated:

(a) Less than one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) acre lot size: Four (4) colonies;

(b) One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) acre or more but less than one acre lot size: Six (6) colonies;

(c) One acre or larger lot size: Eight (8) colonies;

(d) Regardless of lot size, where all hives are situated at least two hundred feet (200') in any direction from all property lines of the lot on which the apiary is situated, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies.

2. For each two (2) colonies authorized under colony densities, subsection (H)1 of this section, there may be maintained upon the same tract one nucleus colony in a hive structure not exceeding one standard nine and five-eighths inch ( $9\frac{5}{8}$ " ) depth ten (10) frame hive body with no supers attached as required from time to time for management of swarms. Each such nucleus colony shall be disposed of or combined with an authorized colony within thirty (30) days after the date it is acquired.

(I) Prohibited: The keeping by any person of bee colonies in the city not in strict compliance with this section is prohibited. Any bee colony not residing in a hive structure intended for beekeeping, or any swarm of bees, or any colony residing in a standard or homemade hive which, by virtue of its condition, has obviously been abandoned by the beekeeper, is unlawful and may be summarily destroyed or removed from the city by the city manager or designee. (Ord. 9, Series of 2009)