

BACKYARD BEEKEEPING GUIDELINES

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Beehive Care and Safety

- Beekeepers must engage in good management and husbandry practices to prevent aggressive behaviour and disease.
- All bees must be obtained from reliable sources. Bees are not allowed from the United States. Only queens. Aggressive bees must be replaced.
 - [To help identify reliable sources for bees and beekeeping supplies, we encourage beekeepers to review this helpful document created by the Government of Alberta on purchasing honey bees or equipment in Alberta.](#)
- Beekeepers must provide a constant source of water for the bees from before spring snowmelt until late fall to deter the bees from seeking water from alternate sources such as neighbouring pools, hot tubs, bird baths or dog dishes.
- The City must be notified of any unusual bee behaviours such as swarming, signs of disease or any unusual situation.
- Beekeepers must carry liability insurance (valued at not less than \$2,000,000 Canadian dollars) to cover accidents related to their bees and beekeeping activities. Insurance may be obtained through the Edmonton & District Beekeepers Association or by speaking to a reputable insurance provider.
- The area around the beehive and nucleus hive must be kept free of hive scrapings or other debris to minimize the likelihood of attracting other bees, wasps or other unwanted visitors.
- Beekeepers must arrange and designate someone to monitor the beehive and nucleus hive if they will be away for more than one week. It is recommended that a designated person visit and monitor the beehive, nucleus hive, and property at least once a week.

Bee Keeping Site Specifications

The backyard beekeeping site includes the beehive as well as the nucleus hive. A nucleus hive is a smaller hive in which larger bee colonies can expand into. Maintaining a nucleus hive is considered a good animal husbandry and hive management practice, as it helps to prevent swarming.

The beehive and nucleus hive may consist of a total of up to six supers. A super, or honey super, is a box in which 8-10 frames are hung. Honeybees collect nectar and store the processed nectar in honeycomb, which is built on the frames. The recommended set up for supers is four placed within the primary beehive, and two supers set up within the nucleus hive.

The beekeeping area must also:

- be situated to allow bees a direct flightpath to the beehive and nucleus hive while controlling the potential for bees to become a nuisance for neighbors;
- allow for a flightpath higher than 2 metres (m).
 - This may be done by placing a fence or hedge in front of the hive entrance to encourage bees to fly upward as soon as they exit the hive.
- direct the hive entrance away from adjacent properties, unless doing so will result in poor sun or excessive wind exposure to the bees.

Beehives and nucleus hives must be within a fenced backyard, and must:

- Be placed at least:
 - 3 m away from all adjacent property lines OR
 - 1.2 m away from property lines separated by a solid fence or hedge at least 2 m high;
- Be a minimum of 3 m away from public rights-of-way or private roads; and
- At least 25 m away from public places including schools, playgrounds, sports fields, and hospitals.

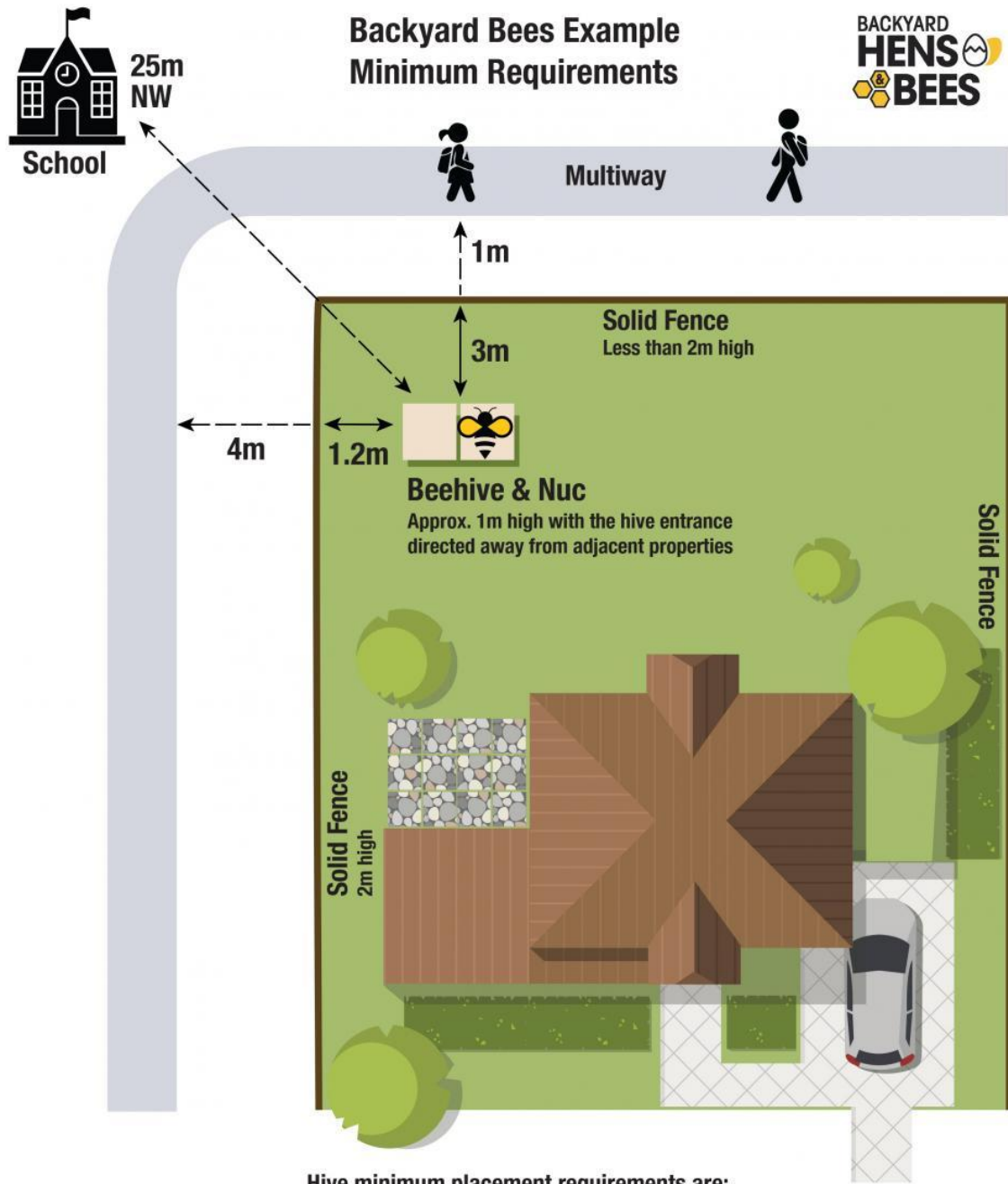
Applicants can follow Table 1, below, to guide them in sizing their beekeeping areas appropriately, as well as ensuring their yard is of an appropriate size to safely care for bees.

Table 1. Site and Hen Enclosure Area and Dimensions

Beehive Dimensions and Minimum Backyard Area Requirements				
	Min. Yard Length (m)	Min. Yard Width (m)	Min. Yard Size (m²)*	Min. Yard Size (ft²)
Assuming 1.2 m setback from 2 m high fence/vegetative hedge	2.82	2.91	8.21	88.33
Assuming 3 m setback from property line with no fence/vegetative hedge	6.42	6.51	41.79	449.87

*Calculated based on standard size of super with an outside length of 50.7 cm (20 in) and width of 41.8 cm (16 1/2 in). Actual size of super may vary by a +/- 10 cm (3.93 in).

Example Beekeeping Area Diagram



Hive minimum placement requirements are:

- 25m away from public places such as schools
- 3m away from shared use pathway
- 1.2 m away from the property line where there is a 2m high solid fence
- 3m away from the property line where the solid fence is less than 2m

Inspection and Enforcement

- After the beehive and nucleus hive have been built, the Environmental Inspector will inspect the work to confirm the structures have been built to the outlined criteria. Additional inspections may be conducted if a complaint is made.
- Failure to comply with the guidelines at any time will result in the participant's licence being revoked. Individuals continuing to keep bees without a licence will be subject to further enforcement action by City of Leduc Enforcement Services under the [Animal Licencing and Control Bylaw 1019-2019](#) for keeping a prohibited animal.

Participant licences may become void or be revoked in the following circumstances:

- When any information such as the Applicant Information or Site Information changes from the Licence Application without notification of and approval from the City of Leduc. In this case, a new application process must be initiated.
- A licence will be revoked if neighbours with adjacent backyards identify a medical concern such as a bee allergy.
- Should the City find a backyard site, beehive or licence holder to be non-compliant with the guidelines at any time, the City has the authority to revoke the beekeeping licence. A 14-day written notice will be provided within which time bees, the beehive and nuc must be removed from the property.
 - The timeframe for removal may be extended at the discretion of the Environmental Inspector.
 - All costs and associated expenditures related to the removal of beekeeping structures are the responsibility of the participant.