



# Management Plan for Honeybees

*This management plan may be added to the property owner's personal land management plan.*

Honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) are one of agriculture's most important resources for pollinating agricultural plants. In addition to family or commercial food plots or gardens, it is highly recommended that open areas be seeded with pollinator-friendly crops by the property owner. For a continuous food supply, a rolling progression of blooms is best — providing a nectar (carbohydrate) and pollen (protein) source through the summer, when many areas have finished their bloom progression.

## Pollinator-Friendly Cover Crops

Beneficial over-crop plants for a continuous bloom progression:

Dutch White Clover	Phacelia	Crimson Clover (not Red Clover)
Silver River Sweet Clover	Sesame	Alfalfa (if left to flower)
Canola	Wildflower Mix	Bee Balm (Monarda / Horsemint)
Hairy (Purple) Vetch	Buckwheat	Phlox

### Where to Find Wildflower & Pollinator Seed Mixes

*A web search will turn up many other reputable suppliers as well.*

- [Turner Seed](#) — Breckenridge, TX
- [Applewood Seed Company](#)
- [Bulk Seed Store](#)
- [Native American Seed Co.](#)
- [American Meadows](#)
- [Great Basin Seeds](#)

## Beneficial Trees

Texas' largest honey producer is Chinese Tallow — but many other trees in the area support strong nectar and pollen flow:

Chinese Tallow	Vitex	Locust
Black Locust	Honey Locust	Desert Willow
Maple	Linden	Basswood
Mesquite	Golden Rain Tree	Privet (Chinese Privet)
Ligustrum	Mexican Buckeye	American Soapberry

The surrounding 18,000 acres (a 3-mile radius) around the apiary is the theoretical foraging range of a colony. What your neighbors do can also affect the bees — the closest half-mile is the most important.

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## Harmony Hollow's Hive Care Commitment

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Harmony Hollow's commitment to your management plan includes a minimum of hive checks every 4–8 weeks, to evaluate the health and strength of the colonies hosted on your property. Checks and maintenance are performed by Rex Smith or Laura Winters with Harmony Hollow Apiary.

### Each check covers:

- Queen presence (freshly laid eggs or visual sighting of the queen)
- Supply of nectar (carbohydrate)
- Supply of pollen (protein to feed larvae)
- Colony behavior
- Colony health and growth
- Mite checks, evaluation, and treatment
- Swarm prevention
- Pest checks (small hive beetle, wax moth, etc.)

Honey is not the only commercial product of the hive. Land is often used to produce more colonies from host colonies — nucleus colonies, queen production, and pollen collection are also commercial-value items produced by honeybees in agricultural use. Our focus is on the care and survival of the livestock (honeybees), so understand that a honey harvest is never guaranteed or promised in any given year.

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## Pollination of Food for Human Consumption

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While honey harvests are an “iffy” prospect in North Texas, one of the lines in the property tax code indicates that one of the qualifiers for bees to be a legal Ag Valuation livestock is also to provide pollination for food for human consumption. We highly recommend you have a garden or food plot / fruit trees on the property. If you would like a consultation or quote on maintenance of one – let us know.

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## Pesticides & Herbicides

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Herbicides and pesticides can both affect a colony by poisoning. If either is applied on the property, 14 days' notice is required so that colonies can be removed during application and while the poisons remain effective. As outlined in the maintenance agreement, death of colony(s) by poisoning is not covered by Harmony Hollow Apiary's management, and results in a replacement cost per colony as outlined in the maintenance agreement.

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## Theft & Vandalism

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Theft and vandalism of beehives has been a specified crime in Texas since the 2022 legislative session. As with loss to pesticide use, hives lost to theft or vandalism are not covered under replacement, and are to be replaced at the cost per colony outlined in the maintenance agreement. A lockable fence / gate helps immensely.

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## Other Livestock

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If other livestock — such as horses, cattle, sheep, or goats — are present, a separation fence will need to be erected around the hives to prevent damage or tipping by the other livestock. This can be as simple as t-posts with wire fencing attached (or whatever is needed to keep livestock from harming the bee hives). [sample fence design can be viewed here](#).

## Water

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Bees, like any other animal, need access to water. Ponds, lakes, standing water, creeks, stock tanks, pools (saltwater and chlorinated), and grey water all provide water sources for bees. A natural water source away from human activity is preferred — however, bees will use whatever they deem fittest for their needs. It is recommended that the water source be within a quarter-mile of the hives; closer is better. Understand that bees can and will use swimming pool water as a source.

## Beekeeper Registration

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As of September 1, 2023, the Texas Apiary Inspection Service no longer processes “Apiary Registrations” — the last legislative session changed this to “Beekeeper Registration.” The property owner can register as “the beekeeper,” or the hired beekeeper can register as “the beekeeper” for the property. Registration is performed annually and can list your property under that registration. The appraisal district may have upcoming guidelines on who they want listed (property owner or hired beekeeper). Registration is no longer free — it is now \$35 per year. Visit [txbeeinspection.tamu.edu](https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu) for details.

## Hive Branding & Identification

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For hired maintenance of Harmony Hollow Apiary or Birds & The Bees hives, our apiary brand ID will be stenciled on the boxes (TX 1-113-687 or 1-113-823).

If you own the hives, TAIS can assign you a brand ID for \$10 (as of 2023) that you can use to mark and identify your hives. Alternatively, hives can be marked with your own identifier (name / phone number), which is acceptable per TAIS.

Farm & Livestock Activity signage may be placed at or near an entry gate to the property for colonies owned by Harmony Hollow. This was formerly known as the Equine Law in Texas, and now covers other livestock with potentially unpredictable behavior.

**Note: Placement and management of hives is NOT a guarantee that your appraisal district will approve agricultural valuation for your property.**



## Beekeeping & Gardening Classes

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Rex and Laura also seasonally teach beekeeping and gardening classes at Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space in Dallas. The Introduction to Beekeeping class is geared toward folks who have never worked with honeybees before — approximately 2 hours of classroom time, followed by hands-on time in the field inspecting hives.

For a current list of classes and prices, visit [BohemianUtopia.com/classes/](https://BohemianUtopia.com/classes/)

**Call Harmony Hollow Apiaries with any questions: 469-251-2BEE (2233)**