

# SWARM INFORMATION



City of St. Albert

**Swarm Response Line: 780-459-1557**

Provide the public of the City of St. Albert a contact to call when a honey bee swarm is found within city limits on public or private property. When you call please provide information on the location of the swarm so that a swarm catcher can go to the site.

A honey bee swarm is noticeable when there is a dense group of bees, typically moving together in one direction. Once the swarm lands or clusters, it is a dense mass of bees in a tree, on a fence post, the side of a building, or other exposed similar spots. Before bees swarm, they fill-up on honey making it difficult to bend and sting. They need the honey as a food source, because they do not know how long it will be before they have a new home. There will be some bees scouting out a new home. When a new home is found, the swarm of bees will move again to take up permanent residence in a sheltered spot where they build their wax comb.

A honey bee is relatively large, slim insect (about 12 mm or ½ inch long), with 3 distinct body parts and 4 wings. They are covered with short hair and range in colour from a dusty yellow to almost black. They usually have a few bands of contrasting colour across their abdomen.

For more information about beekeeping, please visit the City of St. Albert webpage:

<https://stalbert.ca/city/approvals/>

If you have questions about beekeeping in the St. Albert please email [bees@stalbert.ca](mailto:bees@stalbert.ca) or call 780-459-1642.

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