

Swarming Bees

During spring and early summer months swarming bees are common. Swarming is the bee's method of colony reproduction. As the weather warms up, a colony of bees will grow to the point that the worker bees decide it is time to raise a new queen. There is only room for one queen bee per hive therefore, before a new queen emerges, the old queen and about half the workers will gorge on honey for several days, then take flight. You may see swarms with an upward of 20,000 bees. They eventually settle in a clump, usually on a tree branch, where they remain for several days while scouting for a permanent home. If you find them in this state, contact a local beekeeper to remove them safely.

What You Can Do – Helpful Hints

- ◇ Consider regular professional pest control around your home and yard or contact a local bee keeper who will remove the bees and keep them alive
- ◇ Don't over water gardens or yards leaving swampy conditions
- ◇ Harvest fruits and berries from trees/bushes in a timely manner; remove and dispose of dropped fruit
- ◇ Feed pets inside or pick up empty food bowls after feeding
- ◇ Keep garbage lids closed and away from outdoor activity areas
- ◇ Ensure window screens are fitted properly
- ◇ Fill any hole made in the ground by animals
- ◇ Fill cracks in walls and foundation as well as around the roof of your home