

Fort Worth Encourages Beekeeping

Urban agriculture uses in Fort Worth
Adapted from the Fort Worth Zoning Ordinance

Allowed*

Zoning district	Community garden	Urban farm	Aquaponics, within a structure	General signage	Temporary sales	Farmers' market	Sale signage	Honeybees	Self-pick sales	Warehousing/distribution
Residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* See zoning ordinance for conditions.

- **Know your local laws**
- **Laws vary by city, county, & state**
- **Some places in Tarrant county have different rules**

[http://fortworthtexas.gov/files/22335-08-2016 Urban Agriculture.pdf](http://fortworthtexas.gov/files/22335-08-2016%20Urban%20Agriculture.pdf)

[https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/ftworth/latest/ftworth tx/0-0-0-47578](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/ftworth/latest/ftworth_tx/0-0-0-47578)

Fort Worth Ordinance 21653

• **Aug 2016**

10. Beekeeping/Apiary is allowed with the below regulations:

- a. The responsible parties, who are beekeepers, must adhere to all applicable state laws concerning the care and handling of bees;
- b. Honeybee colonies are kept in hives with removable frames or top bars with dividers, which shall be maintained in sound working condition;
- c. The numbers of hives is tailored to the size of the lot as follows: a maximum of two hives on lots $\frac{1}{4}$ acre or smaller, four hives on lots larger than $\frac{1}{4}$ but less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, six hives on lots larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre but smaller than 1 acre. There shall be no limit on the number of hives on lots larger than one acre. The number of hives **may increase by up to 50% over the designated limits for a period not greater than sixty (60) days.** The Planning and Development Director or designee shall have the authority to require a person to reduce the number of hives or require other reasonable safety precautions in an apiary in order to abate any nuisance.
- d. If a hive's orientation has the hive entrances located perpendicular to and within 25 feet or less of an adjacent property line, **a solid wall, fence, hedge** or combination thereof **at least six feet high** shall be placed between hives and adjacent property lines of developed properties, and extends at least four (4) feet beyond the hive in each direction along the property line in order to minimize interactions between bees and the adjacent property
- e. A **convenient source of water** is provided to the bees on the property at all times during the year to discourage bees from congregating at swimming pools, hose bibs, or other water sources where contact with humans or pets may occur.
- f. **No wax comb or other material that encourage robbing** by other bees is left upon the grounds of the lot; instead this material should be stored in sealed, insect-proof containers or closed buildings. For a period not greater than twenty-four (24) hours frames and hone harvesting equipment may be left in the bee yard to allow bees to clean excess honey from the equipment.
- g. If a colony exhibits **aggressive behavior** without provocation, the beekeeper will ensure that the colony is re-queened or otherwise managed using customary beekeeping practices;

Lot size	# hives
< $\frac{1}{4}$ acre	2
$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$	4
$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1	6
> 1 acre	No limit

• **# Hives**

• **Fence**

• **Water**

• **Robbing**

• **Aggressive**

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/ftworth/latest/ftworth_tx/0-0-0-47578