

Help with Honey Bee Swarms



Photo: Alyssa Piccolomini



<https://www.explorenature.org/latest-blog/honey-bee-swarms/>

In Montana, honey bees usually swarm towards the end of May and into the month of June, sometimes even into July. Because honey bees are social insects, swarming is how the colony reproduces and increases honey bee populations. This process begins by the rearing of a new queen within the parent colony. The old queen quits laying eggs and her abdomen gets smaller so she can fly. When the new queens are ready to emerge, the old queen takes part of the colony and flies away while the new queen remains in the hive. The bees stay in a tight grouping as they fly. They will land on various places—including buildings, tree branches, and machinery—to rest and give the scout bees a chance to find a new home. As the bees are resting, some bees are continuously flying around. Many beekeepers will remove swarms or assist in their control.

Beekeepers on this list have agreed to be available for collecting swarms around the state. If you would like to be contacted for swarm removal but are not on this list, please contact your state inspector.

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Need help removing swarms? Contact a beekeeper below for assistance

COUNTY	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	CITY
Cascade	Roxanne Ochs	406-781-3150	Great Falls
Cascade	Kathie Hansen	406-899-2840	Great Falls
Cascade	Caryl Ward	406-452-6906	Great Falls
Daniels, McCone, Roosevelt, Sheridan	James Rodenberg	406-653-2565	Wolf Point
Flathead, Lake	Ken Lambeth	406-849-5039	Big Arm
Gallatin	Forrest Lintner	406-471-3444	Bozeman
Gallatin	Steve Thorston	406-580-4944	Bozeman
Lake	Bruce Basler	406-883-4848	Polson
Lewis & Clark	Cam Lay	406-438-3303	Helena
Lewis & Clark, Madison	Jeff Gerth	406-431-1466	Helena
Lewis & Clark	Steve Platt	406-202-2457	Helena
Lewis & Clark	John Quintrell	406-458-1950	Helena
Lewis & Clark	Betsy Brandborg	406-475-3535	Helena
Lewis & Clark	Nate Gray	406-475-5551	Helena
Lincoln, Flathead	Ben Goodrich	509-304-4721	Eureka
Lincoln	Robert McLaury	406-293-3022	Libby
Missoula	Charles DeVoe	406-239-5245	Missoula
Missoula, Mineral	Jon Kelley	406-540-2493	Alberton
Missoula, Ravalli	Jacob Wustner	406-370-9089	Missoula
Stillwater	Patty Sundberg	406-322-5780	Columbus
Teton	Lloyd & Brenda Cunniff	406-466-5803	Choteau
Wheatland	Cody Gantz	406-780-0236	Shawmut
Yellowstone	Alisa Bartos	701-269-8967	Billings
Yellowstone	Alan Lohof	406-671-8977	Billings
Yellowstone	Chuck Bushey	406-697-2454	Billings
Yellowstone	Jason Eckart	406-927-9037	Billings