

Need help removing swarms? Contact a beekeeper below for assistance

Help with Honey Bee Swarms



Photo: Alyssa Piccolomini



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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Email: apiary@mt.gov

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COUNTY	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	CITY
Broadwater, Jefferson	Vikki Doddridge	714-337-2626	Elkhorn
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	406-250-8433	Big Arm
Flathead, Lake, Sanders	Eunice Suess	406-304-2182	Hot Springs
Flathead	Dennis Susens	406-885-3495	Kalispell
Gallatin	Forrest Lintner	406-471-3444	Bozeman
Gallatin	Steve Thorston	406-580-4944	Bozeman
Flathead	Dennis Susens	406-885-3495	Columbia Falls / Kalispell
Lewis & Clark	Cam Lay	406-438-3303	Helena
Lewis & Clark, Madison, Gallatin, Butte-SB	Jeff Gerth	406-431-1466	Helena
Lewis & Clark	Steve Platt	406-202-2457	Helena
Lewis & Clark	Betsy Brandborg	406-475-3535	Helena
Lewis & Clark	Nate Gray	406-475-5551	Helena
Lincoln	Robert McLaury	406-293-3022	Libby
Missoula	Charles DeVoe	406-239-5245	Missoula
Park	Richard O'Haire	406-220-3354	Clyde Park
Ravalli	Mike Foster	307-215-4500	Hamilton
Stillwater	Patty Sundberg	406-322-5780	Columbus
Teton	Lloyd & Brenda Cunniff	406-590-5803	Choteau
Wheatland	Cody Gantz	406-780-0236	Shawmut
Yellowstone	Alan Lohof	406-671-8977	Billings
Toole	Kevin Phillips	406-785-8049	