



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Division of Plant Industry

ADAM H. PUTNAM  
COMMISSIONER

**BEEKEEPER COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT –  
BEST MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR  
MAINTAINING EUROPEAN HONEYBEE COLONIES**

Rule 5B-54.0105, F.A. C.

1911 SW 34 Street/P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100  
Phone: (352) 395-4633 / Fax: (352) 395-4624

1. NAME & MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER OR AGENT:	2. APIARY(IES) LOCATIONS BY COUNTY
3. REGULATED ARTICLE(S): <b>Honeybee colonies</b>	
4. APPLICABLE STATE QUARANTINE(S) OR REGULATIONS: <b>193.461, 570.32, 586.10 (1), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 5B-54, Florida Administrative Code.</b>	

Signature of this document indicates adherence to the following requirements and establishes compliance with Chapter 586, Florida Statutes. Beekeepers keeping bees in areas that are not classified as agricultural pursuant to Section 193.461, Florida Statutes, must adhere to these guidelines. The guidelines are recommended, but not required for beekeepers keeping bees in areas classified as agricultural pursuant to section 193.461, Florida Statutes.

**BEST MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR  
MAINTAINING EUROPEAN HONEY BEE COLONIES ON NON-AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

The hive density limits in areas not classified as agricultural pursuant to Section 193.461, Florida Statutes, below, minimize potential conflict between people and honeybees and beekeepers following the BMRs outlined in this document. The honeybee colony requirements /densities may not be exceeded except under a special permit letter issued by the Director of the Division of Plant Industry.

1. The placement of honey bee colonies on **non-agricultural private lands** must follow the following stipulations:
  - A. When a colony is situated within 15 feet of a property line, the beekeeper must establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least 6 feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof that is parallel to the property line and extends beyond the colony in each direction.
  - B. All properties where the honeybee colonies are located must be fenced and have a gated controlled entrance to help prevent unintended disturbance of the colonies.
  - C. No honeybee colonies may be placed on public lands including schools, parks, and other similar venues except by special permit letter issued by the Director of the Division of Plant Industry and written consent of the property owner.
2. Honey bee colony densities on **non-agricultural private land** are limited to the following property size to colony ratios:
  - A. One quarter acre or less tract size - 3 colonies.
  - B. More than one-quarter acre, but less than one-half acre tract size - 6 colonies.
  - C. More than one-half acre, but less than one acre tract size - 10 colonies.
  - D. One acre or larger tract size - 15 colonies or more.

- E. On tracts of one or more acres, where all hives are situated at least 150 feet in any direction from all property lines of the tract on which the apiary is situated, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies.
  - F. Regardless of tract size, so long as all property other than the tract upon which the hives are situated, that is within a radius of at least 150 feet from any hive, remains undeveloped property, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies.
3. Beekeepers must provide a convenient source of water on the property that is available to the bees at all times so that the bees do not congregate at unintended water sources.
  4. Beekeeper must visually inspect all honey bee colonies a minimum of once a month to assure reasonable colony health including adequate food and colony strength. If upon inspection honey bees appear to be overly aggressive the beekeeper shall contact their assigned apiary inspector for an assessment.
  5. Queen honey bee colony divisions or splits with production queens or queen cells from an EHB certified queen breeder, or from queens/queen cells acquired from outside the range of Africanized honey bees.
  6. Requeen collected swarms, new colonies and maintain colonies with queens from EHB queen producers immediately if the queen source is unknown.
  7. Practice reasonable swarm prevention techniques as referenced in EDIS Publication ENY 158
  8. Do not place apiaries within 150 feet of tethered or confined animals or public places where people frequent. (Examples - day care centers, schools, parks, parking lots, etc.)
  9. Do not place hives in an area that will impede ingress or egress by emergency personnel to entrances to properties and buildings.
  10. Deed restrictions and covenants that prohibit or restrict the allowance for managed honeybee colonies within their established jurisdictions take precedence and as a result supersede the authority and requirements set forth in Chapter 586 Florida Statutes and Rule Chapter 5B-54, Florida Administrative Code.

It shall be presumed for purposes of this article that the beekeeper is the person or persons who own or otherwise have the present right of possession and control of the tract upon which a hive or hives are situated. The presumption may be rebutted by a written agreement authorizing another person to maintain the colony or colonies upon the tract setting forth the name, address, and telephone number of the other person who is acting as the beekeeper.

5. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	6. PRINTED NAME & TITLE	7. DATE SIGNED
The affixing of the signatures below will validate this agreement, which shall remain in effect until canceled or renewed, but may be revised as necessary or revoked for noncompliance. All previous versions of this compliance agreement are superseded and rendered obsolete by this document.		8. AGREEMENT NUMBER
		9. DATE OF AGREEMENT
10. OFFICIAL NAME & TITLE	11. OFFICIAL ADDRESS Division of Plant Industry Apiary Inspection Section P.O. Box 147100 Gainesville, FL 332614-1416	
12. OFFICIAL SIGNATURE		