

Urban Beekeeping

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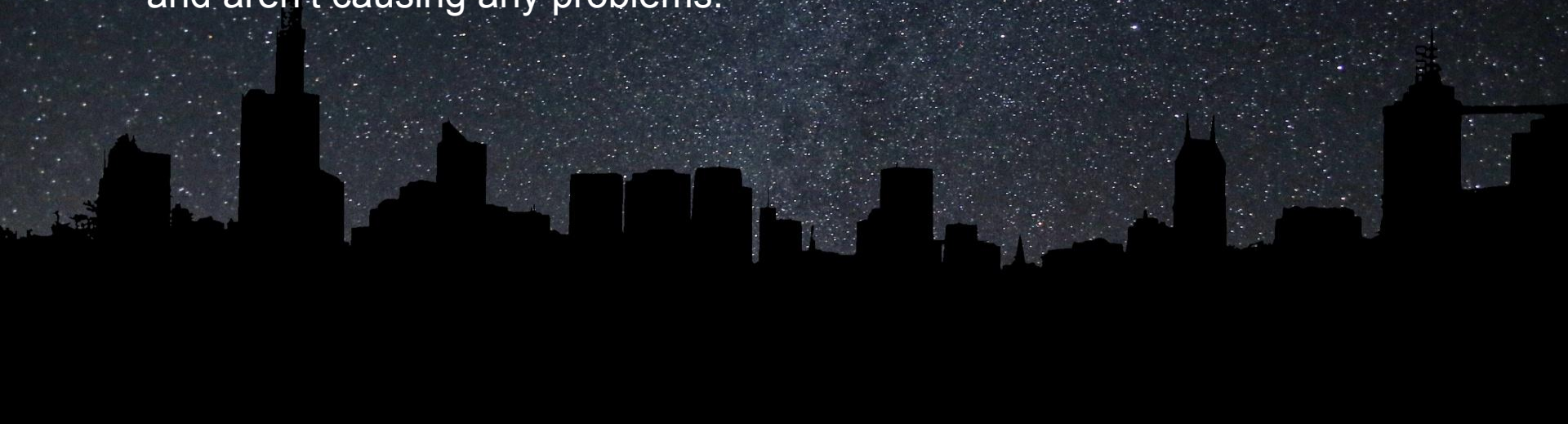
What is Urban Beekeeping?

- Urban beekeeping is managing and keeping bee colonies in an urban area, usually in a city.
- Urban beekeepers will often place their hives on rooftops or balconies, off of the ground.
- Some cities have community parks where bee hives can be built.



Legal Facts

- Beekeeping isn't legal in all cities.
- Beekeeping is legal in New York, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Seattle, Annapolis, and Bismarck (to name a few)
- Most states require permits and inspections to make sure the hives are safe and aren't causing any problems.



Effects on the Bees

- Bees are very resourceful and are able to find many sources of pollen and nectar in urban areas. There are many weeds in cities that are great pollen sources. This means that they make more honey.
- Bees tend to do better urban areas than in suburban areas. This is because they have access to greater biodiversity and therefore develop better immune systems. Also they don't have access to as many pesticides in the city than in the countryside.
- Also, rooftop hives are less affected by ants and hive beetles because those mostly live on the ground.

Effects on Humans

- When beekeepers sell honey it attracts chefs and local shop owners, who set up restaurants and stores. The business attracts people.
- Urban gardeners benefit from bees pollinating their crops.
- People like to know where their food comes from and the honey produced is locally.



Pros

- Healthier for the bees (less intruders and better immune systems).
- Locally sourced honey for restaurants and small businesses.
- Good for plants in the area.
- Give unused space like abandoned lots a purpose that also gives back to the community.
- Rooftop hives stay out of the way, and most people won't notice them.
- Bees in urban settings have a better chance of surviving in winter.
- The variety of different botanical life gives the honey a different flavor.

Cons

- People are usually afraid of bees and might not like them on their roofs.
- Bees might take other sweets besides nectar and pollen (like cherry syrup, fine yellow sawdust, or chlorinated pool water to drink).
- Swarming is a bigger problem than in suburban and countryside hives because it affects more people (even though it is mostly safe, most people don't know that)
- Wind is an issue the bees face when they're stationed on roofs.

Sources

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