

Policy on Honeybee Hives at MCG

Authors Willy Miller and Mary Lotten (2014)

- Six honey bee hives is the limit at MCG (this is the same number as in the Dunn Co. Ordinance)
- Hives should be the Langstroth style with removable frames
- Water needs to be provided for the bees by the beekeeper
- Hives shall be at least 100 feet from a residential dwelling preferably more
- The flyway for hives shall not go over a garden where gardeners are working. Although flyway is typically stated as 6 feet, we felt it should be perhaps 20 ft to keep it a more comfortable distance for people working their garden.
- The beekeeper must have a garden plot, do active gardening and be in good standing (follow rules and be a contributing gardener member)
- Any gardener who has comments or complaint about the bees or hives should address it to the Board of MCG. That concern will be taken to the individuals keeping bees and a solution found.
- At any time the presence of the hives and bees becomes a liability and issues cannot be resolved, the hives with bees shall not be permitted at MCG.
- Menomonie Community Gardens is a non-profit whose focus is sustainable agriculture, education and involvement of its members and larger community.

Additions to Policy 2018 after discussion at a garden meeting (ML)

- Beekeepers will do education with gardeners each season to help them understand honey bee behaviors better.
- Beekeepers will notify the gardeners when hives are opened which may disturb the bees. Situations such as removing honey stores, splitting a hive and similar activity often cause bees to be irritated and fly about but within a close proximity of the hive.
- The state bee inspector is available to beekeepers for consultation and advise as well as hive inspection.