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Are Honeybees Swarming in Your Backyard?

Swarms of bees occur most commonly during the early spring when new queens decide to form a new nest site. These bee swarms are less likely to be aggressive so we usually do not have to worry about stinging. However, the problem with swarms is the lack of acceptance in urban neighborhoods. These swarms cause uproars in urban areas if the nest settles in a backyard tree or on a porch. Also if they find a way to invade your house and take up residence in walls or attics, it could lead to a pretty expensive treatment tab. If swarms invade the home, the nest will have to be removed (preferably by a professional), usually at a hefty cost. If nests are not removed, the wax, honey and dead bees may produce odors that can attract other pests such as mice, ants or cockroaches.

Some people prefer to leave their wild bee swarms alone. However if you wish to take action, the safest course in urban areas is to hire a beekeeper to remove the swarm or hire a professional to eliminate it before they discover a way into your home.

For more information, please check out Dr. Mike Merchant's City Bugs website at: http://citybugs.tamu.edu/InTheNews_Details.asp?ID_Key=441.

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