

Research Published by: [Beekeepers Association in Canberra](#)

This research explores **the phenomenon of bee swarming** and provides insights into understanding and responding to a moving colony. Bee swarms, although appearing chaotic and overwhelming, are a **natural part of the honey bee reproductive life cycle** and play a crucial role in pollination.

Bees swarm mainly due to overcrowding in the hive or when compelled to leave due to pests or diseases. When a swarm occurs, the old queen and approximately half of the hive leave to form a new colony. The swarm congregates on a tree or a fence nearby and sends out scouts to search for a suitable new home, typically a tree hollow or cavity.

If you encounter a swarm of bees, it is important to remain calm and keep a safe distance. Most bees in a swarm are docile and have nothing to defend, especially when they are in the process of swarming. However, if the queen has died, the bees may become anxious. It is advisable to keep children and pets away from the area and allow the swarm to settle and clump together. In most cases, the swarm will move on after a few days.

If you want the swarm removed promptly or if you are concerned about them nesting near your property, it is recommended to contact a swarm removal beekeeper. Beekeeping associations and societies in each state and territory usually provide a list of collectors who can safely gather the swarm for relocation.

It is vital to avoid taking certain actions with a swarm of bees. Attempting to coax the swarm to leave or using water, fire, or stones to disturb them can agitate the bees and make removal more difficult. Spraying insecticides on the bees should be strictly avoided, as it can harm the bees and hinder their essential role in pollination.

Bees play a crucial role in pollinating crops, vegetables, and nuts, and their disappearance would have a significant impact on our food supply. It is important to support bees by planting flowering plants in gardens and purchasing honey from local sources. Beekeepers have noticed a decrease in bee swarms in some areas, raising concerns about the potential impact of the varroa mite, a destructive parasite that has yet to reach certain regions.

In conclusion, understanding why bees swarm and how to respond to a moving colony is essential for both the safety of individuals and the preservation of these important pollinators.

Source: abc.net.au