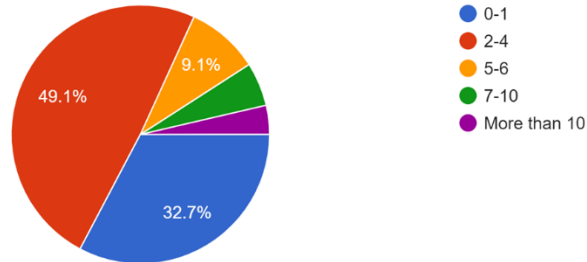


Portland Urban Beekeepers Survey Regarding Proposed Beekeeping Policy Changes
November 22, 2019

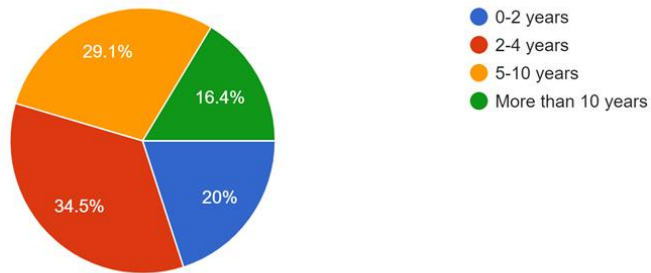
How many hives (8 or 10 frame Langstroths, Top Bar or Warre) do you currently have as of November 22, 2019

55 responses



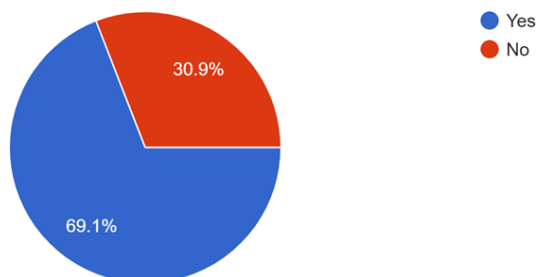
How long have you kept honey bees?

55 responses



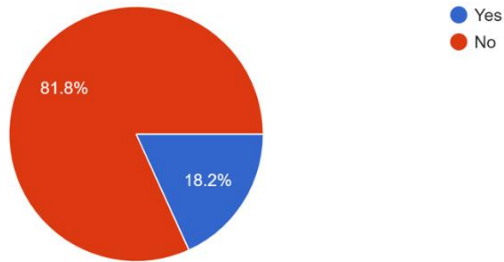
Have you ever taken a formal class in beekeeping, whether it was a club-sponsored bee school or Oregon State University Master Beekeeping program?

55 responses

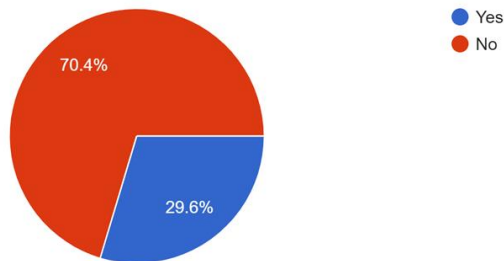


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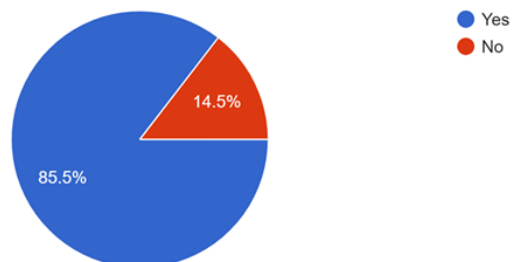
Do you think that hive limits should be set for beekeepers in Portland?
55 responses



Would having a limit set on the number of hives affect your current beekeeping practice?
54 responses

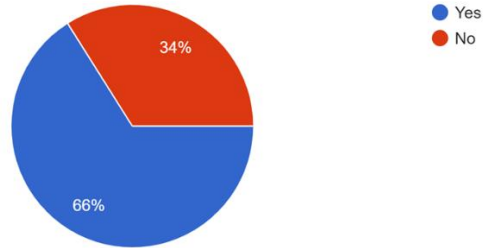


Do you support "unlimited" hive numbers as long as there are no complaints from neighbors?
55 responses

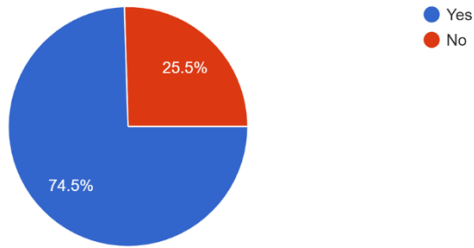


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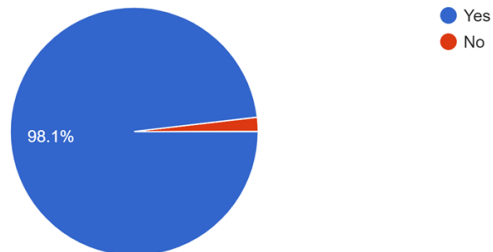
Should the city define "hive" and "nucleus hive" in the proposed policy?
53 responses



If the city defines "hive" as one 8 or 10 frame Langstroth, or one Top Bar, or one Warre configuration, should the nucleus hive be defined as one 5 frame hive?
51 responses

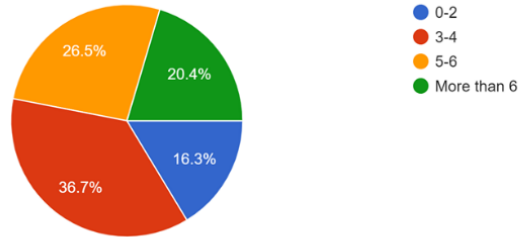


If the city limits Portland beekeepers to 4 hives, in most urban or suburban situations, should the city allow an additional number of nucleus hives to...ers to make "splits" in order to prevent swarming?
54 responses

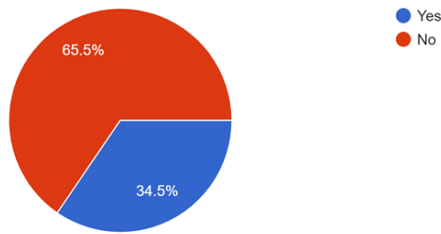


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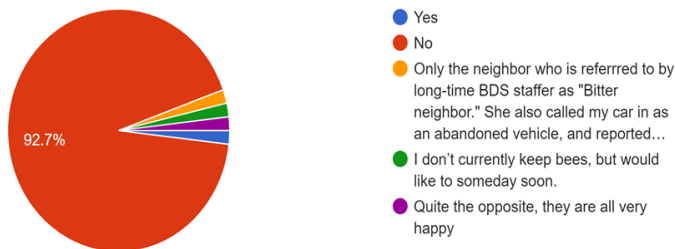
If the city of Portland limits beekeepers to 4 hives (in most situations), how many nucleus hives do you think you need to perform adequate 'splits' to...spring swarms that are not necessarily your bees?
49 responses



Have you been present for any of PUB's formal presentations of the "Residential Beekeeping Best Practice Guidelines for nuisance-free beekeeping"...as in February 2018, the other was January 2019.
55 responses



Have any of your neighbors ever complained about your bees?
55 responses



If you ever had a complaint about your honey bees, how did you resolve it?

Luckily, the competent staff at city and county could detect that my neighbor is full of hooley. If only she were full of honey, maybe she'd be sweeter.

I got an an observation (not a complaint) that my neighbors liked how bees formed a circle at edge of their elevated birdbath. I just added more water sources at my home

Do you have anything to say about the proposed city of Portland policy regarding beekeeping in city limits? Please read the proposed draft policy document carefully and comment thoughtfully on the contents. Please provide a rationale for your comments.

(22 responses)

In addition to my concern about arbitrary number of hives in their limit, I think they are wayyyy off in terms of the 'fly away' barrier being proposed. The phrase "extends 10 feet beyond the apiary in each direction" suggests each hive is in a 20 x 20 foot box. Also, if there is, say, a fence along the edge of the property on the neighbor's side, why should a beekeeper have to put up a barrier exactly next to it? I understand that we don't want bees flying into the neighbor's window, or hammock, but there is better wording to be done here.

Hard to understand the rationale for limiting the number of hives, especially given the uncertainties and irregularities of beekeeping. I do think the emphasis on communicating with neighbors is valuable, and gives a chance to bee-educate. . .

I think it's really important that people with existing permits for more than four hives should be "grandfathered" or otherwise be able to keep their hives.

I've only seen two places where the number of colonies seemed excessive: one small lot in Richmond had about 20 colonies in 5' wide side yard; the other in Beaumont-Wilshire had 50+ with bees in the air everywhere; I think the density of colonies with one beekeeper can mean inadequate forage for them and too much competition with bees kept by beekeepers with more reasonable numbers of colonies

Oh my god the city planners are going wild on livestock in the city

I believe the correct term for a group of honey bees with a queen is a colony, not hive. I don't like the delineation between hives and nucs. I don't think the size of the box the bees are in should be a factor. I could have 4 colonies in 10 frame double deep boxes or 8 colonies in 8 frame medium boxes and have the same number of bees. I mostly don't want the city to regulate how many colonies I have.

I agree with Mike Rodia, if there is no evidence that clearly indicates that hive limits decrease complaints, then allowing beekeepers to follow the best practices guidelines should be implemented.

This is healthy for the city and our local ecology

Bees are in drastic decline, and any efforts to keep bees should be supported, not restricted.

WE NEED BEES TO LIVE.

We need to allow for sudden drops in hive numbers due to colony collapse.

The cities proposal of changes for title 13 is too aggressive and limits related to zone R5 are ridiculous. This eliminates a ridiculously high number of current and future beekeeping opportunities. Having kept hives in an R5 zone for many years and never had a complaint or concern from anyone, we find it a local government overreach.

In the proposal, page 4, Nuisance Conditions, it states that beekeepers must respond to have placement that ... results in a significant number of bees on neighboring properties. My concern is proof. Most bees on my neighboring properties are, in all likelihood, do not belong to me. How does the city propose to ascertain the origin of bees on neighboring properties? If a neighbor complains about bees on their property it appears that the beekeeper nearest the offended property will shoulder the responsibility of correcting the perceived problem. The central issue would be how the complaint is quantified with evidence. If the beekeeper adheres to the city's requirements regarding hive placement and a secured flight path then the keeper should be within normal compliance. Bees bothering neighbors should then fall to the city or county to address, not the nearest beekeeper.

Additionally, urban growth is not addressed in the document. I live in a very densely populated neighborhood that is undergoing rapid growth through construction and housing. If my neighboring property were to develop a multi-story construction that directly blocks current my bee flight path, how will the city address the problems that will arise regarding prior claim to the beekeeper's reasonable space needs. Will it fall on the beekeeper to amend their practices?

Rather than a strict number system that is problematic for keepers and untenable, as it leads to unintended consequences such as swarming, the city should administer a complaint driven adjudication process where larger commercial operations may be limited based on actual circumstances and those with few colonies are left alone to pursue their hobby, which is a benefit to the community.

"Discourage Robbing or Predators." No bee comb, wax or other materials that might encourage robbing or predators are left upon the ground. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall properly be disposed of in a sealed container and relocated away from bee access." Why does City care about robbing? Robbing is a problem for the beekeeper, not the community. After extracting I like to let my bees go over the combs and clean them. If I did not do this the combs would have a lot of leftover honey which attracts and can ferment if too wet. After one day the bees pick the comb clean. Then I store the comb in my garage. This rule seems unnecessary.

I think it's important for a beekeeper to provide forage

Limit should be 6 hives rather than 4.

At this point, I see ants and yellow jackets as the more realistic quality-of-life issue. Honeybee interactions in the city are seldom negatively received. The vast majority of people support a thriving honeybee population and in the past, I have only ever had positive comments regarding my hives.

When I heard that bees were in trouble, that's when I built my first hive. Since then I have had many neighbors say that their trees and gardens are producing MORE than ever before. One couple that

doesn't talk to anybody even came out to tell me they have had a pear tree that had not produced pears for a few years and this year it was fully loaded. They both said they think it was because I started helping the bees. I do this to help the bees, if they go WE GO! I might not be around to help if there are a bunch of POLICIES that are being made to hinder helping them. I am doing this NON chemical using essence oils and traps for beetles and mites. I have had less problems than others I hear of. I am hoping that I can continue helping the bees. I want to do the best I can for them, my nieces and nephews, and grandchildren. Thank You for reading.

Just wanted to let know I downloaded 2018 OSU/OSBA Doc. I have been conforming with all rules. seem fairly common sense.

Some nucleus hives have fewer than five frames and some might have more.