

## LCBS Swarm Collection Best Practices

The following represents a list of best practices that LCBS expects all swarm collectors to follow. Your presence, as a member in good standing, on the LCBS swarm collectors list, which is used extensively by the public every spring, requires you to agree to and follow these best practices to the best of your ability. Should LCBS become aware of anyone not following these practices, LCBS reserves the right to remove that person from the swarm list.

This document may change from time to time so swarm list members should view it occasionally to ensure they are familiar with the most current LCBS best practices.

1. Swarms will be collected into and transported in a container which can be variable in size and which contains frames that can later be moved into a hive body. This essentially necessitates collecting the swarm into a hive body containing frames. While a bucket on a pole is a fine tool to retrieve bees from a high branch in order to place them into a hive body on site, buckets are not proper swarm receptacles or transportation devices.
2. Extra hive bodies containing frames will be brought along to the swarm collection site to accommodate larger-than-expected swarms. Swarms must be collected into a properly sized container. For example, large prime swarms will almost never fit into a nuc. Full sized bodies should be used in this case.
3. After the initial collection, the container will be placed as close as possible to the original location of the swarm. While not required, having a tall step ladder for such a purpose is highly encouraged. The container will be left at that location with an open entrance until dusk in order to collect as many returning bees as possible. This procedure and reasons for it will be reviewed with the property owner and/or the person responsible for reporting the swarm before the collection begins.
4. The swarm collector will advise anyone close by to retreat from the area before beginning as stings are unlikely but entirely possible.
5. Straps or other physical closures will be used to secure the container holding the swarm during transport.
6. All property must be protected from damage. Permission to cut branches or walk into flower beds must be granted by the property owner or a representative before beginning.
7. The swarm collector agrees to return to the location at a later date should bees still be gathered there after the collection is initially complete. Subsequent collections of small numbers of bees are sometimes necessary and collecting the initial swarm obligates the collector to this follow-up work.
8. Swarm collectors must consider the welfare of the bees above their own gain of a colony. If unavailable to collect a swarm within just an hour or two, the swarm collector should defer and ask any caller to please contact the next person on the list. Waiting many hours or overnight to collect a swarm should not be considered.
9. The swarm collector should have an available destination for the collected swarm prior to agreeing to collect the swarm.