



POLLINATION CONTRACTS

It is highly desirable for beekeepers and growers to have a written agreement when honey bee colonies are being rented for pollination services. Such a contract will help to prevent misunderstandings and thus insure better pollination service. Key points that should be included in the contract are:

- Date of movement of bees into the crop, or the time relative to a certain condition of bloom, and the date on which bees are to be removed
- Location of crop
- Number and strength of colonies
- Pattern of colony placement
- Rental fee and the date(s) on which it is payable
- Grower agrees not to apply bee-toxic pesticides while bees are in the crop, but if necessary to do so, the beekeeper will be given 48 hours notice
- Grower agrees to warn beekeeper of other spraying in the area
- Grower agrees to reimburse the beekeeper for any additional movement of colonies in, out, or around the crop
- Grower will provide right of entry to beekeeper for management of bees.

MAAREC, the Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium, is an official activity of five land grant universities and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The following are cooperating members:

University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware

University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

USDA/ARS
Bee Research Lab
Beltsville, Maryland

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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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Participants in MAAREC also include state beekeeper associations, and State Departments of Agriculture from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

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POLLINATION AGREEMENT

This agreement is made _____ between _____,
(month/day/year) (grower's name)
and _____ .
(beekeeper's name)

1. TERM OF AGREEMENT. The term of this agreement shall be for the _____
growing season. (year)

2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BEEKEEPER:

- a. The beekeeper shall supply the grower with _____ hives (colonies) of
(number)
honey bees to be delivered to the _____ as follows:
(orchard, field, etc.)

(Fill in the appropriate line or lines and cross out those that do not apply)

Approximate date of introduction _____

Number of days after written notice from the grower _____ .

Time in relation to the following amount of bloom _____

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION(S): _____

(For additional space attach a separate sheet dated and signed by both parties)

The beekeeper shall locate said bees in accordance with directions of the grower, or, if none are given, according to his judgment in providing the maximum pollination coverage.

- b. The beekeeper agrees to provide colonies of the following minimum standards:

Disease-free colonies with a laying queen as evidenced by brood

_____ frames with brood

_____ frames covered with adult bees

_____ pounds of honey stores or other food

_____ story hives

The beekeeper agrees to open and demonstrate the strength of colonies randomly selected by the grower.

c. The beekeeper agrees to maintain the bees in proper pollinating condition by judicious inspection and supping or honey removal as needed.

d. The beekeeper agrees to leave the bees on the crop until:

(Fill in the appropriate line or lines and cross out those that do not apply)

Approximate date of removal _____. Number of days of written notice from grower. _____

Time in relation to amount of crop bloom _____

Other _____

3. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE GROWER:

a. The grower agrees to provide a suitable place to locate the hives. The site must be accessible to a truck and/or other vehicles used in handling and servicing the colonies. The grower shall allow the beekeeper entry on the premises whenever necessary to service the bees, and the grower assumes full responsibility for all loss and damage to his fields or crops resulting from the use of trucks or other vehicles in handling and servicing such colonies of honey bees.

b. The grower agrees not to apply pesticides toxic to bees to the crop while the bees are being used as pollinators nor immediately prior to their movement into the field or orchard if the residue would endanger the colonies.

c. The following pesticides, other agricultural chemicals and methods of application are mutually agreed to be suitable while the bees are on the crop: _____

d. The grower also agrees to properly dispose of all pesticide solutions in such a manner that bees will not be able to contact the material while searching for a water source.

e. The grower agrees to give the beekeeper a 48 hour notice if hazardous materials not listed on this contract need to be applied. The cost of moving the bees away from and back to the crop to prevent damage from toxic materials shall be borne by the grower.

f. The grower agrees to pay for _____ colonies of bees at the rate of \$_____ per
(number) (amount)
colony. Payment shall be made to the beekeeper as follows: \$_____ per colony on
(amount)
delivery and the balance on or before _____ of said year. Additional
(date)
moves or settings shall require \$_____ per hive per move.
(amount)

g. The grower agrees to provide adequate watering facilities for the bees if none are available within one-half mile of each colony used in pollinating the crop.

Signed: _____
Grower

Date: _____
Beekeeper

Address _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Phone Number _____