

2019 URBAN BEEKEEPING SERIES SCHEDULE

The Urban Beekeeping Series is taught by seasoned beekeeping instructors and long-time members of the urban beekeeping group, Toronto Beekeeper's Cooperative. This year-long series gives you hands-on experience with managing hives, as well as provides you with simple steps to support honeybees and other important pollinators in the city, whether you intend to keep your own bees or just enjoy learning about their care.

Instructors: Mylee Nordin, Cathy Kozma and Oliver Couto

Group A (PG19W28: more on Fridays): Public \$300; Members \$250

Group B (PG19W29: more on Sundays): Public \$300; Members \$250

Session 1: Intro to Bees & Hive Equipment

Groups A & B: Sunday, March 24, noon to 4 p.m.

Get the 101 on honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) and modern beekeeping. Build hive equipment and explore beekeeping suits, smokers and hive check tools as we prepare for the year ahead.

Session 2: Design & Plant a Pollinator Garden

Groups A & B: Sunday, April 28, 1 to 4 p.m.

See flowers from a bee's perspective. Learn which plants provide optimum nutrition to honeybees throughout the growing season, as well as optimum honey for the beekeeper.

Session 3: Plan the Season & Spring Hive Check

Group A: Friday, May 17, 1 to 4 p.m.

- Rain Date: Friday, May 24, 1 to 4 p.m.

Group B: Sunday, May 12, 1 to 4 p.m.

- Rain date: Sunday, June 2, 1 to 4 p.m.

Experience an exciting time in the beekeeping season as bees wake up from their winter slumber. Don bee-keeping gear, learn about safety in the bee yard and check on the bees. Common challenges and their tried-and-true solutions will be discussed.

Session 4: The Summer Hive Check

Group A: Friday, June 14, 1 to 4 p.m.

- Rain Date: Friday, June 21, 1 to 4 p.m.

Group B: Sunday, June 23, 1 to 4 p.m.

- Rain Date: Sunday, July 7, 1 to 4 p.m.

Learn to handle hive equipment and identify the queen, worker and drone bees. Assess honey stores, look for signs of pests and parasites and review organic solutions to this problem.

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Session 5: The Honey Harvest

Groups A & B: Sunday, Aug 11, noon to 5 p.m.

This is the most exciting (and sticky!) time of the beekeeping season when bees and beekeepers share the bounty. Learn how to sort and pull honey from frames, remove wax cappings, extract liquid honey from honeycombs, clean frames and return spun frames to the hive.

Session 6: Late Summer Hive Check and review

Group A: Friday, Aug. 23, 1 to 4 p.m.

- Rain Date: Friday, Sept. 6, 1 to 4 p.m.

Group B: Sunday, Aug. 25, 1 to 4 p.m.

- Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 15, 1 to 4 p.m.

Review what you have learned in the classroom and bee yard to prepare for beekeeping on your own.

Session 7: Honey Jarring & Processing

Group A & B: Sunday, Sept. 29, 1 to 5 p.m.

Learn how to harvest honey, so that it is ready to enjoy and share, and render wax to be used in candles, soap and lip balm, etc.

Session 8: Put the Bees to Bed

Group A & B: Sunday, Nov. 3, 1 to 4 p.m.

Wrap-up the season by conducting a final check for parasites, wrapping the hives and ensuring equipment is ready for winter storage. Students will go home with a small jar of honey.