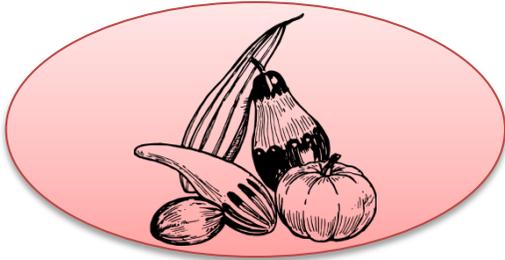


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE COUNTY'S URBAN AGRICULTURE ORDINANCE

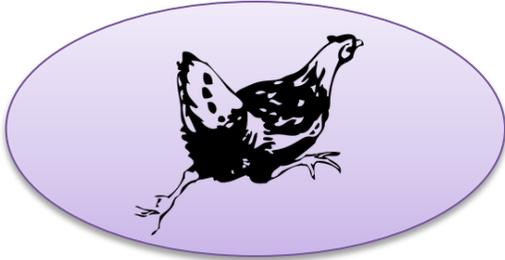
Over the past months the County has worked closely with the Sacramento Urban Agriculture Coalition (SUAC), the Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association (SABA), community members, and various County Departments to craft an ordinance promoting and supporting agricultural activities in urban spaces. Growing and making food available near people's homes improves access to healthy foods, fosters community connectivity, enhances the urban environment, increases agricultural educational opportunities, and provides economic opportunities on vacant and underutilized land.



Non-Commercial Beekeeping is allowed as an incidental use in residential, AR-2, AR-1, recreation, mixed use, commercial, and industrial zones



Urban Agriculture Stands, are permitted, to be temporarily assembled for the sale of crops and goods produced on site, directly to the public.



Keeping of Chickens, including incidental keeping of egg laying chickens and ducks and keeping of animals in association with educational programs, is allowed and with fewer limitations.



Water Conservation is a top priority. Incidental garden areas must comply with the **Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance**. Community and market gardens are not subject to compliance, but must implement best practices to maximize water efficiency

For more information on the Urban Agriculture Ordinance, visit: <http://www.per.saccounty.net/Pages/default.aspx>

FAQ: Non-Commercial Beekeeping



The Urban Agriculture Ordinance brings hobby beekeeping to Sacramento's Residential, Recreation, Mixed Use, Commercial and Industrial zones. Honeybees are our most important pollinators as well as producers of fresh natural honey. Keeping bees locally benefits Sacramento County's ecosystems and residents.

How do I know if I am eligible for non-commercial beekeeping?

Your lot must be at least 5,000 square feet, you must maintain a current registration status with the Agricultural Commissioner, and you must install proper barriers and provide a permanent fresh water source on your parcel within 15 feet of the proposed hive(s).

What about bee stings?

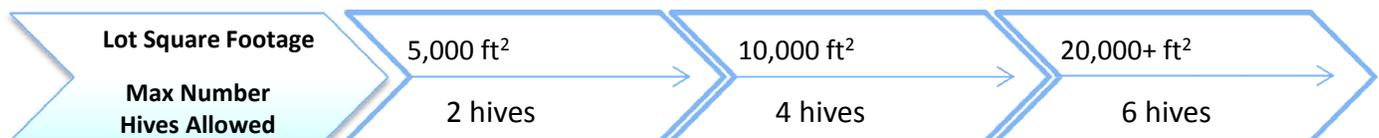
Honey bees only sting to protect the hive and are present in the environment, regardless of beekeepers. In fact, the number of aggressive (Africanized) bees are reduced in the vicinity of a docile honeybee hive. Beekeeping provides a home base for bees as they carry out their work of pollination. Barriers are required in front of hive entrances to minimize interactions between bees and neighbors. However, communicating with neighbors about potential bee allergies and keeping an epi-pen handy is advised.

Can I sell the honey products my bees produce?

Yes. However, your beekeeping must remain "non-commercial", meaning that the keeping of honey bees is incidental to your permitted residential or non-residential use and beekeeping products do not constitute a significant source of your income.

Is there a limit to how many beehives I can have?

Yes. The number of permanent hives allowed per parcel is based on the parcel size and ranges from two to six. The doubling of hives is temporarily allowed for hive management purposes.



FAQ:

Keeping Chickens

The Urban Agriculture Ordinance allows for the keeping of egg-laying chickens and ducks in your own yard! Home raised eggs are better for the people and the environment. Backyard eggs contain 25% more vitamin E, 33% more vitamin A, and 75% more beta carotene. The practice also reduces pollution from packaging and carbon emissions used in transporting eggs.

Can I keep roosters or other crowing fowl now?

The keeping of crowing fowl is allowed, but only on lots greater than 10,000 square feet and in zones RD-1 through RD-7.

How big does my lot need to be to keep chickens?

There is no minimum lot size.

Can I keep my chickens anywhere on my property?

It depends on the size of your lot. On lots less than 10,000 square feet, egg laying chickens must be kept in the rear yard areas only. Chickens must be kept in a structure or fenced area at least 20 feet from all neighboring residential dwellings.

Is there a limit to how many chickens I can raise?

If your lot is larger than 10,000 square feet, no. If your lot is under 10,000 square feet then the number of chickens you may raise is restricted based on the zone in which the parcel lies.. On residentially zoned parcels, one chicken is allowed for every 1,000 square feet of parcel area or one for every 200 square feet of the rear yard area, whichever is less. Parcels in nonresidential zones may have one chicken for every 400 square feet of parcel area or one for every 200 square feet of rear yard area, whichever is less.

Are there any requirements regarding how the animals are kept?

Yes, your chickens must be provided with a covered coop and at least 10 square feet of space available for each chicken to forage and roam. The coop must be at least 3 feet from property lines and a maximum of 30 square feet.

FAQ: Urban Ag Stands

The Urban Agriculture Ordinance, effective February 23, 2017, allows private, community or market gardens to set up temporary stands to sell crops and certain goods produced on site directly to the public. This is the primary mechanism by which the ordinance provides opportunities for residents to obtain fresh, healthy and locally produced foods from their neighbors.

What are the requirements to operate an Urban Ag Stand?

An Urban Ag Stand may consist of removable tables and either a removable pop up canopy tent or a similar temporary, removable shade structure no more than 12 feet high. There may be no more than one stand per parcel.

What can I sell at my stand?

Products that are permitted for sale at Urban Ag Stands are limited to produce, eggs, honey, and cottage foods, provided that all items are grown or produced on site. Cottage foods must be processed and sold consistent with a cottage food permit.

What type of permit do I need?

If your stand is less than 120 square feet, you must acquire a Temporary Use Permit . If your stand is more than 120 square feet of tented space a Conditional Use Permit is required.

Are there limits on hours of operation for Urban Ag Stands?

Yes. They may only operate between sunrise and sunset.

What is considered a cottage food?

Cottage foods are food products that are pose little potential health hazards and do not require refrigeration. These foods are limited to spices, teas, dehydrated produce, nuts, seeds, honey, jams, jellies, preserves, fruit butter, baked goods, and candies



FAQ: URBAN AGRICULTURE AND THE WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

Is my project required to comply with the requirements of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance?

Not necessarily, market and community gardens on vacant lands are not subject to the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance but must comply with all applicable requirements of the local water purveyor for the site, and include best practices to maximize water efficiency and to avoid water waste.

Garden areas for edible plants that are incidental to a primary use such as a home or restaurant must comply with the requirements of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO) and all applicable requirements of the local water purveyor for the site.

What size landscapes are required to be reviewed under the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance?

New construction projects with a total landscape area equal to or greater than 500 sq. ft. and rehabilitated landscapes with an aggregate landscape area equal to or greater than 2,500 sq. ft. typically must submit a project application and landscape plans to the County.

My project doesn't require me to comply with the WELO, are there other County codes I should be aware of?

Yes. Please refer to Sacramento County's Zoning Code Section 5.2.4 for landscape standards and Section 5.9.3 for parking standards that you must be in compliance with. If you have any questions regarding the County Zoning Code or the landscape and parking standards please contact the County Planning and Environmental Review Department at 916.874.6221

How do I submit my application for compliance with the WELO?

The application and landscape plans should be provided directly to the County for review and approval. For more information on what to include in the landscape plans contact Michael Wall at wallm@saccounty.net

Am I required to hire a landscape architect or landscape designer to draw plans?

No. The property owner may draw and submit plans to the County for review. The County will accept landscape plans that are drawn to scale and provide an accurate display of proposed landscape features while meeting the criteria of the WELO. You may also have a landscape contractor develop landscape plans for you however the installation must also be supervised by that contractor.

How can I maximize water efficiency in my garden?

There are a variety of irrigation techniques that can help to maximize irrigation efficiency and avoid water waste. Some of these include designing your garden to minimize evaporation and runoff, using drip irrigation systems, installing appropriate soil amendments, and providing a layer of mulch.

May I start work on my project before my project is approved?

No. Landscape treatments requiring review under the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance must submit landscape plans including a project application to be reviewed and approved by the County prior to landscape installation.