



MASON BEES



WHAT ARE MASON BEES?

Mason Bees are a type of native bee, with over 140 species. They are common throughout the US. They are the size of flies and have a metallic blue or blue-black in color.

They do not have a hive to protect and do not make honey. They are gentle, solitary and non aggressive bees.

HARMLESS



WHY ARE MASON BEES SO IMPORTANT?

The Honeybee population has dropped due to colony collapse disorder. This problem is greatly impacting the food supply and gardens due to the lack of pollinators. Increasing the native bee populations is a great way to support our local ecosystems

PROS OF MASON BEES

- They are great pollinators!
- While the honey bee will pollinate 80 - 100 plants a day, the mason bee can pollinate up to 20,000 plants a day.
- Male mason bees do not have a stinger, and the females bees
- Female bees only sting if trapped or squeezed. **So they are HARMLESS!**
- They will work in cold and rainy weather, unlike honeybees.

LIFE CYCLE

Mason bee larvae hatch just a few days after the eggs are laid. They munch away on the food that's been stored in their cell, which usually lasts them about 10 days. Then the larva spins a cocoon and pupates. By autumn, the insects look like an adult bee, but they remain inside their cocoons throughout the winter. When the weather warms in the spring, the males break through first; the females emerge several days later.

NATURAL HABITAT

Mason bees cannot make their own homes, so they use whatever is accessible (examples: old wood, grass reeds, woodpecker acorn holes, or holes made by wood-boring animals. They also like homemade bee homes.

HOW DO THE BEES USE THE BEE HOUSE

- The Female bee collects and packs food in the tube.
- She then lays an egg with females furthest in the cavity and seals the cell.
- She will repeat this process until the tube is filled and then start on another tube.
- She will continue this process for 4-6 weeks, then will die.



SCAN ME

Alexia Tzortzis
Eagle Project
Troop402.org

I hope to help educate the community on the importance of our native bees and how we can increase their populations to support our local ecosystems.