

Pollinators in Your Garden

There are thousands of native bee species in the United States. Most of them will come to your yard naturally if you provide lots of flower nectar and patches of undisturbed ground.



Sweat Bees

Fun facts:

- Many colors from shiny black to vivid green or blue
- Nest in the ground—prefer sandy, bare soil
- Collect pollen on their hind legs



Mason Bees

Fun facts:

- Can be attracted by drilling $\frac{5}{16}$ in. holes in wooden blocks
- Seal their nests with mud
- Valuable pollinators in orchards



Flower Flies

Fun facts:

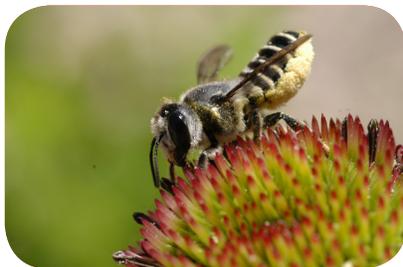
- Adults are near perfect bee mimics
- Important pollinators of many flowers
- Their larvae eat aphids and scale insects



Mining Bees

Fun facts:

- Nest in the ground
- Leave a patch of bare ground to encourage them
- Each species has individual preferences on soil
- Many are active only in spring



Leafcutter Bees

Fun facts:

- Carry pollen on the underside of the abdomen
- Will make use of nesting tubes
- Line their nest with pieces of leaves



Bumblebees

Fun facts:

- Large bees with fuzzy, yellow hair
- Nest below ground and have a colony system similar to honeybees
- Their “buzz pollination” can release the pollen of tomatoes making them invaluable

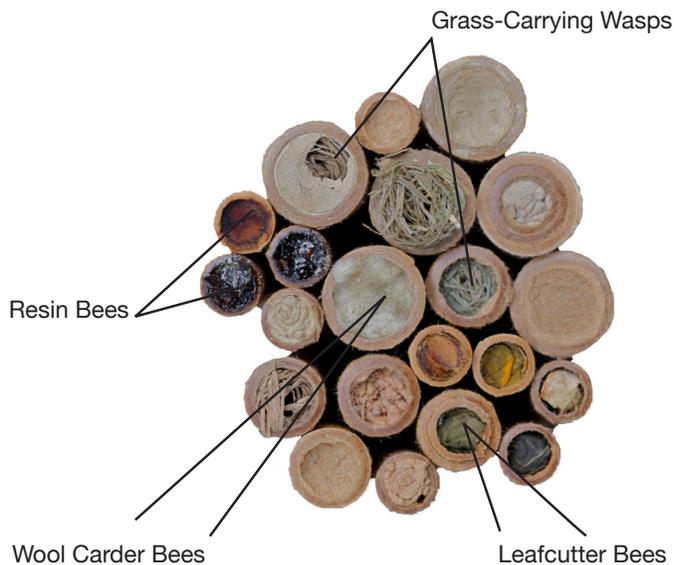
Nesting



If you see leaves like these, you have beneficial leafcutter bees at work. They use these leaf pieces to line their nests.



Mining bees nest underground. Their holes resemble ant hills. They may nest in loose or compact soil, but sandy soil is preferred.



Bundles of hollow plant stems or bamboo can be placed out for bees to nest in. The capped ends of nesting tubes tell you what species are developing inside.

In late June, remove the capped tubes and place them in an opaque box, in a cool, shaded location. In winter be sure your filled tubes remain unheated. Your bees will emerge mid-winter if exposed to indoor heat!

After last spring frost, move your tubes back outside to let your bees emerge.

Project Pollinator Partners:



Other References:



*Pollinators of
Native Plants*
by Heather Holm



Xerces Society
Guide: *Attracting
Native Pollinators*

Learn More about Project Pollinator at butterflyhouse.org/projectpollinator