



Leaf
cutter
Bee

BEE HOTEL

For Solitary Tunnel-Nesting Native Bees

Why build a Bee Hotel?

In the wild, solitary tunnel-nesting bees use holes of dead trees, crevices underneath rocks or bark, and hollow stems of twigs. Solitary bee numbers are declining due to lack of natural nesting areas and pesticides.

Why are native bees important?

Pollination! Native bees are amazing pollinators, not only of flowers in our gardens and wildlands, but also of those that create our food. **A mason bee can visit and pollinate as many as 1600 flowers a day**, more than double a honeybee!

How many types of native bees do we have?

Approximately 1,600 different species of native bees dwell in California. They include many that visit this garden including bumblebees, which are communal, and MASON BEES and LEAF CUTTER BEES, which are solitary.

Are solitary bees dangerous?

Unlike the familiar European honeybee, solitary bees native to this state don't make loads of honey or live by the thousands in a beehive they need to protect. Because of this, they are typically gentle and non-aggressive; kid and pet friendly!

Why are there tubes of differing diameters in this bed hotel?

This is to accommodate the sizes of differing tunnel-nesting solitary bee species. A solitary bee may use added materials for her tunnel nest such as clay, soft leaves, and dirt. She will also collect pollen and nectar to create just the right food for her larvae, and leave it in the tunnel.

When will the Bee Hotel be used?

Depending on the species of bee, egg-laying may take place in fall or spring. The egg develops inside the tube until the larva is mature and ready to emerge and begin the cycle again.

Girl Scout Lauren Mittleman built this Bee Hotel for her Gold Project.

Learn more at Xerces.org



Mason Bee