Mason Bee Houses

Mason bees are a solitary bee (unlike honeybees that live in colonies) that are known for their excellent pollination abilities. They are 'kept' or more accurately cultivated by people who want pollinators for early blooming crops like fruit trees.

Female Mason bees make their nests in holes and can be attracted to an area hanging up mason bee houses for them to nest in.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLACING YOUR BEE HOUSE**

Find the Right Site. Choose a south-facing spot in your yard that will be protected from rain, and hang it about eye level. Trees and fence posts are natural choices if available.

Encourage mason bees to visit. Once you have built and installed the house, it’s natural to want bees to move in right away! Encourage them to visit your yard with these tips:

- Set up more than one mason bee house in different locations.
- Have plenty of flowering plants growing nearby to provide the bees with nectar and pollen.
- Mason bees like to add bits of mud to their nesting tubes, so keep a small dish of mud or clay nearby.
- If you notice birds pecking at the bee house, cover the entrance with chicken wire.
- Create a bee bath by setting stones in a shallow dish of water near the bee house.