Native, Solitary Bees that nest in Cavities.

To reproduce, these bees seek natural bores in logs or posts, hollow stems, or paper tubes housed in a wooden frame.

A bee hotel can provide shelter and protection for solitary bees and increase the pollination services in your gardens. Place your bee house, with new tubes, in early summer and follow these timing guidelines and harvesting methods to ensure healthy survival and successful reproduction.

1. **PLACE COCOONS OUT IN THE SUMMER**
   Leafcutter Bees are a later season bee than Mason Bees. Set out when temps are an average of 75°F.

2. **COLLECT FULL TUBES IN LATE FALL**
   Collect and store somewhere safe and cool to protect from predation, parasites and pathogens.

3. **HARVEST COCOONS IN THE SPRING**
   Remove cocoons from tubes, and incubate at 86°F for about 28 days. Cooler temps will delay hatching.

Leafcutter bees need pollen & nectar. A diversity of native wildflowers for food, health and reproduction.

and leaves to build cocoons. Leafcutter bees cut small circles of leaves to build their nests.

All pollinators need water. A clean, fresh source that is safe for small bees to access.

Photo credits via flicker: Penn State, Bob Peterson, Pam Link
Other tips and Resources

There is a lot of native bee information online but also a general lack of good advice. Follow these tips and resource links to ensure you are getting the best information based on experience.

GOOD TO KNOW...

- Place Bee House 1-6 feet from the ground.
- Set out 1/3 of the cocoons at a time, 2 weeks apart.
- Place cocoons on top of or behind house.
- Males are smaller and will emerge first.
- Leafcutter Bees prefer nesting tubes with 6mm holes.
- Leafcutter bee cocoons are not water proof and should be kept dry.

IMPORTANT LINKS TO NATIVE BEE INFORMATION

Habitat Feature: Bee Houses

Habitat Feature: Making Mud

Habitat Feature: Bare Earth for Native Pollinators

Raising Leafcutter Bees, Step by Step

Pest ID, Chemicals, and Drilled Wood Hazards

Purchase Supplies and Live Cocoons

Photo © via flicker One Tam, S. Rae, deedavee easyflow, Bob Peterson