Caring for Mason Bees
Timing is everything when harvesting and hatching your native solitary mason bee cocoons.

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 near the garden in early spring and follow these timing guidelines and harvesting methods to ensure healthy survival and successful reproduction.

1. PLACE COCOONS OUT IN THE EARLY SPRING
   When tree and flower blossoms are blooming and temps are an average of 55°F.

2. COLLECT FULL TUBES IN EARLY SUMMER
   Collect and store somewhere safe and warm to protect from predation, parasites and pathogens.

3. HARVEST COCOONS IN THE FALL
   Remove cocoons from tubes, wash carefully in cool water and store in refrigeration until early spring.

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

and mud to build chambers.
Moist, clay soil with no sand, gravel, or mulch.

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

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Other tips and Resources

There is a lot of mason 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.
- Mason Bees prefer nesting tubes with 8mm holes.
- If there is no acceptable mud available, mason bees will move on to new areas.

IMPORTANT LINKS TO MASON BEE INFORMATION

Habitat Feature: Bee Houses
Habitat Feature: Making Mud
Habitat Feature: Bare Earth for Native Pollinators
Raising Mason Bees, Step by Step
Pest ID, Chemicals, and Drilled Wood Hazards
Purchase Supplies and Live Cocoons

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