



HELP SAVE ENDANGERED BEES

BUMBLE BEE

Bombus fraternus

There are 46 species of bumblebees in North American and all of them are on the endangered species list. They are measured in millimeters; queen 25-27 mm, worker 15-19 mm, and males 22-25 mm. The bumblebee nests underground possibly in abandoned gopher holes, mouse holes or in cracks and crevasses behind landscape structures.

ORCHARD MASON BEE (BLUE ORCHARD BEE)

Osmia lignaria propinqua

A native to North America, this bee is small enough that it is sometimes misidentified as a fly. It visits more blossoms in a day than its cousin, the honeybee. It is a solitary bee and does not produce an excess of honey. The queen uses only what she needs for her young and her own consumption. These bees are also on the endangered species list.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Don't buy products containing:

- Acetamiprid
- Clothianidin
- Dinotefuran
- Imidacloprid
- Thiamethoxam

Always buy organic to avoid seeds and plants pre-treated with bee-killing pesticide

TED TALK: WHY BEES ARE DISAPPEARING

Spivak, M. (2013, September). Why Bees Are Disappearing. [video file]. Retrieved from https://ted.com/talks/marla_spivak_why_bees_are_disappearing_/transcrip?language=en

GOOD BEE WEBSITES:

BeeAction.org (ways to help bees)
<https://bumblebeeconservation.org>
www.bumblebeewatch.org
www.xerces.org

www.bumblebee.org
www.masonbeesforsale.com
(That's right, you can buy mason bees on line!)

REFERENCE BOOKS:

Bumble Bees of North America: an identification guide, Paul Williams
A Sting in the Tale, Dave Goulson
A World Without Bees, Alison Benjamin and Brian McCallum
I'm Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee, Steven Anderson
Bumble Bee, Margaret Wise Brown

HUMANS CAN PROVIDE HOUSING FOR BEES

BUMBLE BEE HOUSING PROJECT:

Materials needed:

- 7" (minimum) flower pot or bigger
- Base for flower pot or a cover of some sort (ceramic tile)
- Wire mesh to fit tightly inside the flower pot
- Stone of about ½" in size to put between the pot and cover

Directions:

Squeeze the wire mesh into the flower pot and then turn the flower pot upside down and bury it about 2" into the ground/mulch. Place the stone on the upper edge of the flower pot and cover with a lid of some sort.

The queen bumblebee can access the inside of the flower pot through the hole in the base, and she has shelter from the weather.

ORCHARD MASON BEE HOUSING PROJECT:

- **DO** use 5/16" diameter nesting holes. A depth of 6" is ideal; shallower holes will work, but result in more male bees.
- **DO** use paper or wood nesting materials that can absorb some of the moisture from the food supply.
- **DO** place your nesting habitat on the wall of a building in the full sun. Place them under an eave to prevent rain from damaging the wood or paper.
- **DO** place your nesting habitat where it will get the most protection from cooling breezes.
- **DO NOT** place nesting habitat on fence posts, arbors or trees.
- **DO NOT** move nesting habitat during the bees' nesting season.
- **DO** move your nesting habitat into an unheated garage or outbuilding, or refrigerator after mid-September. You may move them into protection earlier if you move them gently. Store at 33 to 38 degrees if possible.
- **DO** hang your nesting habitat close together on the same wall. Remember, the bees are gregarious. *The Orchard Mason Bee, Brian L. Griffin, pg 123*

