

What is a Native Bee House ?



A Native Bee House provides space for a variety of native bees in which to lay their eggs, and in turn, provides your yard with more pollinators. It also acts an attractive reminder to garden responsibly and limit the use of harmful pesticides.

Native bees are different from honeybees in that they are solitary, produce no honey and rarely sting. There are more than 4000 different kinds of native bees in the United States, with more than 600 species here in New Mexico alone.

Native bees do not build nests and will simply sleep under a leaf or in a flower for the night. When it is time to lay their eggs, they look for tunnels in trees. After finding an appropriate tunnel, the female will lay her eggs, fill the space with pollen and seal the end of the tube with mud. The egg will hatch, the larva will eat the pollen, form a cocoon, remain in the tunnel over winter and hatch out the following year.



Native bees are very important pollinators and are an important part of our ecosystem. Many food crops rely on native bees such as sunflowers, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, squash, eggplant and alfalfa. The Mason Bee is a very efficient pollinator of spring blooming fruit trees such as apricot, apple and cherry.