

Mason Bee Placement

Place nesting units where you can enjoy them.

Locate nesting units near the area to be pollinated, but do not place them on fence posts or trees.

Grow a variety of flowers within the mason bee's 100 yard foraging range. Mason bees prefer blue, purple or yellow single bloom flowers. They have difficulty extracting pollen in double bloom flowers.

Place nesting units on a building wall, facing east to catch the warmth of early morning and daytime sun.

Place nesting units three to six feet above ground. Locating nesting units higher up under building eaves protect them from rain and cool winds.

Place nesting habits close together in a permanent location during the nesting season, allowing mason bees to easily find their nesting chambers. Moving mason bee nests after they emerge may cause them to lay their eggs elsewhere.

Mason bees will seek natural nesting spaces when human-provided nesting chambers are full. This will occur under cedar siding and shingles, dead tree trunks, fallen branches, and hollow-stemmed plants, including bamboo, goldenrod, reeds and sumac.

Place near, or provide moist dirt, for mason bees to make their mud plugs.

Do not disturb mason bees during the summer months when they hatch. Handling them during this time may result in the egg falling off its nectar/pollen food source, causing starvation. Handling may safely begin after mid-September when nesting units are placed in storage.

Nesting units may be left outdoors over winter in protected shelters as long as temperatures remain above freezing. Storing them indoors is preferred during the winter months to protect the mason bees from nature's adverse elements.