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How to Raise Spring Mason Bees

Setting Up Your Spring Mason Bee House

- Install your bee house on a sturdy wall facing the morning sun, at eye-level so that you can easily check on your mason bees. Place 8mm sized nesting holes into the bee house.
- When the weather warms to 55F/13C consistently AND your blooms are open, place your mason bee cocoons into the bee house. Be sure to keep cocoons out of direct sunlight.
- If you have 100 or more cocoons, consider releasing them over a period of time rather than all at once.

Mason Bees Require Good Mud

- If the female bees can't find clayey mud nearby they will nest elsewhere.
- Check your soil: when wet does it stick together when pinched?
- If not, add Mason Bee Mud Mix to a hole in the ground or consider the Mason Bee Mud Box placing either within 25ft of the bee house.

Remove and Protect Developing Mason Bees

- In the summer, remove filled mason bee nesting holes to protect them against parasitic wasps, scavenging insects, and birds.
- Place filled nesting holes into our protective BeeGuard Bag, store in an garage or shed that maintains outdoor ambient temperatures.

Harvest Mason Bee Cocoons in the Fall

- Harvesting cocoons simply means removing healthy cocoons from nesting holes.
- This step reduces deadly pests and diseases like chalkbrood (a fungal infection), the Houdini fly, and pollen mites.
- You can trade in your extra mason bee cocoons via our BeeBuyBack program.

Store Harvested Mason Bee Cocoons in the Fridge

- A fridge's consistent 34F helps mason bees survive hibernation over the winter.
- Store waterproof mason bee cocoons in our HumidiBee and add water once per month.

What to Avoid

- Drilled blocks of wood cannot be opened for harvest of cocoons and mason bees can't clean nesting holes.
- Bamboo is an exotic material that doesn't allow the moist pollen loaf to breathe, it is dangerous or impossible to open. Bamboo tubes are also typically too large and too shallow.
- Bees prefer less lawn treatments or sprays. If vital to spray during bee active times, spray at dusk when bees are resting in their nesting holes.

Learn More and Get Involved

- Our website www.crownbees.com is full of information and ideas of how you can raise awareness about native bees.
- Read our *Native Bee Guide*, *Mason Bee Revolution* and *The Bees in Your Backyard* books!

Create a pollinator-friendly habitat for the bees, butterflies, birds, and all pollinators!

Need ideas on what “buzz-worthy” blossoms, berries, and herbs to plant?
come see the nursery experts at [Molbak's Garden + Home!](#)

