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**Mason Bees**

<https://beebuilt.com/blogs/backyard-beekeeping-blog/everything-you-need-to-know-before-keeping-mason-bees>



**Everything you need to know before keeping Mason Bees.**

How far off the ground should their home be? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which way should it face? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why do we want the morning sun? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We’ve used cardboard straws for our bees’ nesting tubes. Why is this important for the end of the season?

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What nesting materials will your bees need for their homes?

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What is the bees’ foraging radius? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Where can we get the bees? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How do we get started with the bees? i.e. When do we put the cocoons out and where would be a good place?

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What’s the difference between male and female cocoons/bees?

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How do you know the season is over? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

When does the season usually end? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why is it important to clean and harvest the new cocoons?

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How do you harvest the cocoons? Give step by step instructions.

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What type of cocoon should be removed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Wash the cocoons in a cold-water bath. If any chalkbrood was found, add a quarter cup of bleach per gallon of water to kill the fungal spores. Any cocoons that sink in the bath should also be separated and discarded. Keep an eye out for cocoons with small holes. These may have been parasitized by wasps and should remain separate from the healthy bees.

How do you store the cocoons until next season?

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**In SUMMARY**

Increasing native bee populations is one of the best ways to support local ecosystems and increase your garden and fruit tree yields. Keeping mason and leafcutter bees and attracting other native pollinators by providing habitat and forage is an easily attainable and super rewarding experience! Go forth and bee!



**Bee Happy!**