

The Mason Bee – By Larry Church

OSMIA LINGNARIA

Common Names

Mason Bee- from the use of mud in their next chamber

Blue Orchard Bee- In the sun they reflect an iridescent blue

Fun Facts

Mason Bees are solitary but gregarious- They live in colonies but work separately. Each female finds a nest and provisions the next and produces young by herself with out help from other bees.

There are 3996 species of solitary bees. 16 species live on Vancouver Island.

For each new bee- she must gather pollen to feed the larva. To do this she will need to visit 75 flowers for 1 load, it will take 25 loads to feed each larva. When added up that is 1875 flowers for each new bee. She had the ability to lay up to 30 eggs in her life time of 8 weeks. That is up to 56,250 flowers.

Mason Bees Have Predators

Birds – Bears – Squirrels – Parasite wasps – Ants – Humans

To help nature we can put up bee boxes/ condos in the spring for them and clean the cocoons in the fall. Protect them from their predators the best we can. This will help improve their lives and numbers and in turn they will help improve our lives with bountiful crops of fruit.