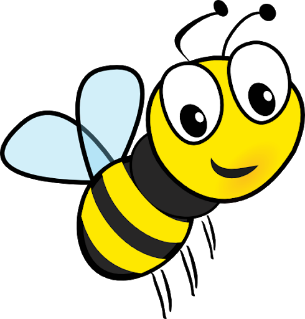
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What do we know so far?

**Mason Bees**

A picture containing outdoor, tree, building, stone

Description automatically generated

**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 do you think this is good/ convenient 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 bees?

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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? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

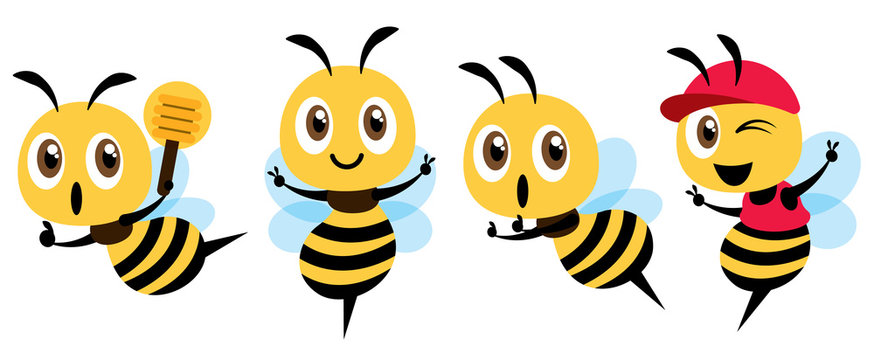
NOTE: Shake the cocoons in a colander. If there are any small cocoons, discard. Any cocoons that are soft and silky should also be separated and discarded. Keep an eye out for cocoons with small holes. These may have been parasitized by wasps and should remain separate from the healthy bees.

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!**