

Native Bee Facts



- *There are over several hundred species of native bees in Texas, including those that are long and short-tongued.*
- *Native bees are not aggressive and usually don't sting unless pinched or squashed.*
- *The female native bee has the role of both the queen and the worker, except for bumblebees.*
- *Common species of native bees are:*
 - *Bumblebees*
 - *Carpenter bees*
 - *Mining bees*
 - *Mason bees*
 - *Squash Bees*
 - *Leafcutter Bees*
 - *Sweat Bees*
- *They usually forage for pollen in the morning and for nectar later in the day.*
- *Bees are especially attracted to flowers that are purple, blue or yellow.*
- *Native bees are more efficient pollinators than honeybees, although much fewer in numbers.*

Coastal Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalist



We are a group of trained volunteers who share our appreciation and knowledge of nature with the community through outreach, education and conservation/restoration projects.

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Native Bees



A Native Bee's Life



Native bees do not form hives and are usually solitary. Bumblebees are the exception in the native bee world and do form small colonies.

When forming her nest, the female bee mixes together pollen, nectar, and saliva to place in the cell to feed her eggs. There may be a single cell or several cells. These cells are capped with mud or plant material to protect the eggs.

Almost 3/4s of native bees nest in the ground. When planning a bee or pollinator garden, provide bare ground for these bees. You can also provide sand and soil in barrels and planters.



Attracting Bees to your Yard with Native Plants

To attract bees, provide a variety of native plants from March to October, when the bees are foraging . Good plants for bees are listed below.

Spring flowers:

bee balm, obedient plant, blue bonnets, Indian blanket, coreopsis, pink evening primrose, penstemon, green milkweed

Summer flowers:

Texas coneflower, blue sage, spiderwort, black-eyed Susan, partridge pea, Mexican hat, liatris, Ironweed, passionflower, basket flower

Fall flowers:

goldenrod, black-eyed Susan, blue sage, Maximilian sunflower, ironweed



Your bee habitat garden also needs a shallow dish with some rocks and water.

Bee Boxes

Almost a third of native bees nest in dead trees and hollow stems. Installing a bee box in your bee habitat provides an additional nesting source for these bees.



Bee boxes are primarily for leafcutter and mason bees. Your bee box should have nesting tubes that can be removed and cleaned or replaced. This will keep the nesting holes from debris and mites and prevent disease.

For more information about leafcutter and mason bees go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf8QyIF3eoY> or check out these QR Codes

