Mason Bee House

Small tubes should be cleaned or discarded after use

Attach house 6-7 ft off ground with S or SE exposure to catch morning sun.

In nature, the bees use woodpecker holes, hollow stems, etc. but are perfectly content to use the tubes in a bee house.

Mason Bees

First a contrast to honey bees, the population of which has declined 50% in past 25 years. They live in hives making them more prone to diseases. Commercial farming moves the hives from crop to crop, exposing them to environmental toxins. They sting & are non native, but they do produce honey.

There are over 4000 species of native bees throughout the US, of which140 species are mason bees. They are powerful pollinators but live independently, so are less

susceptable to disease and they do not make honey. Also, the male has no stinger and the female only stings if trapped. The female emerges in the spring and gathers pollen and nectar to pack into holes where she lays an egg. This process continues until the tubes or holes are filled (4-6 wks) and then it is sealed with mud like masonry. At this point the female dies. The stored food lasts about 10 days while the emerging larvae spin cocoons and pupates for the winter, emerging again next spring. These bees are a little smaller than a honey bee and are black to blue-black in color.