

Seasonal Bee Condo for Native Bees of South Carolina!



Many of the wild bees you may encounter in your backyard garden make their burrow homes in the soil. Some bees create hives in snags (a dead or dying standing tree, often with its branches broken off), or in holes in trees. The activity of native bees will encourage the reproduction of native plants in your yards and gardens. You can encourage native bees to nest near your wildflower gardens by providing man-made nesting blocks, or

“Bee Condos.””

USDA- U.S Forest Service



“Did you know that native bees are better and more efficient pollinators than honeybees when it comes to fruit trees? Honeybees carry pollen in sacks on their hind legs,

Mason bees carry pollen all over their bodies, which means that the pollen has a greater chance of reaching the stigma for proper pollination. One mason bee can pollinate as many flowers as 100 honeybees.

Are you avoiding bees because they sting? Another reason to invite mason bees into your yard is that they are nonaggressive. Honeybees and bumblebees may defend their nests if disturbed, so bee skeps—or domed hives—are usually located on larger plots of land, not in typical backyards. Male mason bees do not have stingers, and the females only sting if they are trapped, so there is little reason to fear them.” Chicago Botanical Garden

Building a Seasonal Bee Condo

First

You should be looking at all the supplies in your Bee Condo Grab n Go! There is no one way to put your condo together, you create it like you want. Also, it's encouraged that you go outside and find sticks that can be used as part of your bee condo.

Second: the balance

Inside the bag you have a piece of plastic from a bottle. You also have cardboard tubes in many sizes. Looking at the picture to the right the goal is to fit all the tubes in the plastic so they are solid and don't fall out.



Third: Create!

Now that you have your main tubes in the plastic, you can keep adding all the different sticks, rolling paper and tubes. You keep adding until everything is securely in plastic tube. I also added natural rope and dry leaves etc. on the outside of my condo to give it a more organic feel.



Fourth:

You may wonder why we are using plastic, well first we are recycling and second it will help protect the little homes. It would be great if you put a cover over the bee condo, and if it gets really yucky, please take it down so not to harm our pollinating friends.

