

Bee Friendly with IPM!

Pollinators visit flowers in your garden gathering pollen or nectar and spreading pollen from flower to flower as they go. Honey bees and bumble bees aren't the only pollinators in your garden – butterflies, beetles, birds, and even bats are pollinators!

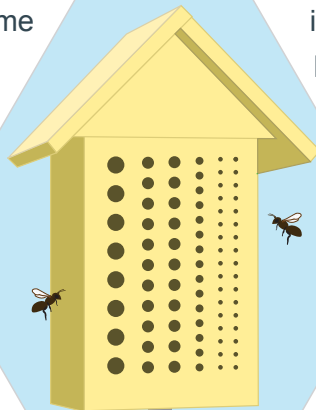


Pollinators are essential

Pollinators help keep plant communities healthy, both in agricultural and urban settings. Without them, we wouldn't have most of the fruits and veggies that we eat. Welcome them to your home garden!

Protect your garden from pests

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to keep unwanted critters out of your garden without using pesticides. Manage garden pests by pruning vegetation and rinsing insects off plants. Using less or no pesticides at all makes for a more bee-friendly garden



Pollinator-friendly pest management

If you use pesticides in your garden, choose lower-risk products and avoid using them when flowers are blooming. Pesticides that target a specific pest may pose less harm to helpful pollinators. Always follow pesticide label directions.

Bee-friendly home gardens

You can help pollinators by making your garden bee-friendly! Plant native flowers that bloom throughout the season to make sure bees have a continual food source. Consider setting up a bee nest box, or leave some bare ground for a nesting site!



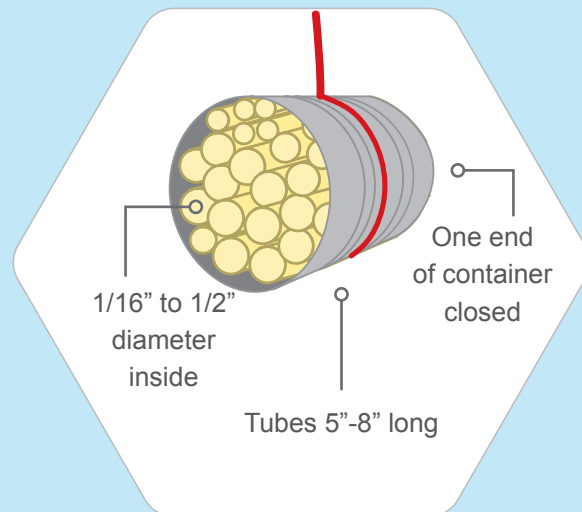
Build your own bee nest!

There are hundreds of species of native bees in California. Most of these bees are solitary and live in wood or underground, unlike the well-known honey bee. Your garden can offer great habitat and important source of food for bees in urban areas!

Some bees like to nest in pre-made tunnels and lay their eggs one by one in compartments along a single tunnel. Bigger bees require wider, longer tunnels, so provide holes in a variety of sizes.

Step-by-step instructions for building a bee nest

1. Use naturally hollow plant stems, like bamboo or reeds, or paper or cardboard tubes.
2. Bundle these tubes together and place them in a container so that one end is closed.
3. Hang your bee nest in a sunny, visible spot about 4 to 5 feet from the ground.



Bee nests made of natural materials should be cleaned or replaced every 2 to 3 years to prevent spreading disease.

Ground Nests

Many native bees build their nests by digging into the ground. You can help these bees by leaving clear patches of soil in your garden. Nesting areas should be well-drained and sunny, and they should measure a few inches to a few feet across. Different kinds of bees prefer different slopes and soil types, so create a good variety of nesting sites to attract a variety of bees!

Make sure you have flowering plants nearby—when bees emerge the following season, they will have food!

