



NATIVE BEES - KEY FACTS

- Many bees do not have stingers, and rarely sting unless they feel threatened.
- There are 4,000 native bee species in North America, and 400 species in Kansas.
- Native Bees have a 95% effective pollination rate; We need them for our home gardens, especially for agriculture.

A majority of bees are solitary ground nesters; female bees dig tiny tunnels and lay a series of eggs, depositing food balls made of pollen and nectar for larvae to eat.

- Some bees are cavity nesters, finding holes in dead trees or other horizontal spaces.
- Some nest in dry plant stalks, preferring a vertical site.

What You Can Do to Help Native Bees:

- Plant a variety of native plants. It sometimes takes a couple years for them to become larger plants. This can help replace some of a bee's lost habitat.
- Leave bare spots of dirt, don't cover it all in deep mulch. Bees need to be able to dig!
- Leave dead stalks over winter as long as you can into the spring. There are often bee larvae overwintering.
- Avoid pesticides when possible. Yard treatments can harm all insects, including bees.
- Do online research on native bees to learn more about protecting and ensuring bees can do their job.

Most importantly: sit and observe the bees working and living in your area. They are fascinating to watch!