

## **Benefits of Raising Mason Bees**

They are native to the Pacific Northwest and thrive in our cool, damp spring climate.

They are gentle and non-aggressive, and easy to observe..

They are a great alternative to raising honeybees, and rarely sting.

They collect more pollen than nectar, whereas honeybees collect more nectar than pollen.

They achieve 95 to 99-percent pollination compared to 5-percent for honeybees.

They forage earlier, longer, and later in the day than honeybees. Mason bees visit up to 2,000 blossoms daily.

They are super pollinators of fruit and nut trees, holly, berries and flowers. Only six mason bees, compared to 10,000 honeybees, are needed to pollinate one fruit tree.

They complement the efforts of other pollinators, including birds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.

They are easy and inexpensive to raise and maintain.

They naturally live in the wild, but easily adapt to clean nesting provided for them, including straws, liners, reeds, liner boards and nesting blocks.

They reproduce five-fold each year. Provide adequate nesting accordingly.

They are an exciting school science project.

They provide the basis for an interesting biology class discussion on pollinators.

They make a great topic for the gardening club.

They are an excellent community service project for Boy and Girl Scouts, and 4-H members.

They are environmentally beneficial to the home gardener, neighbors, and professional growers, as mason bees pollinate flowers, berries, fruit and nut trees within 100-yards of their nesting site.

They are a great living attraction in a community or master gardener demonstration garden.

They are a wonderful natural gift to give to family, neighbors, friends and relatives, that becomes an interesting and rewarding hobby.