

Mason Bee Storage & Release

Mason bees may be left out year-round provided they are sheltered on the east/southeast side of a building, preferably high up under the eaves.

Because of false springs, where temperatures are above 55-degrees Fahrenheit (when mason bees emerge) a few days, it is best to store mason bee blocks/nesters early each fall. Orchard mason bee (*Osmia lignaria propinqua* Cesson) blocks should be stored after late September in a refrigerator, or in a dry, unheated building, such as a garage, barn, storage or garden shed. Store between 33 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit, if possible

Remove one-third of the blocks and place outdoors facing east/southeast to catch the warmth of the early morning sun in late February or early March. The second set of blocks (one-third) are placed out in mid-March, while the remaining third are set out in late March or early April, when fruit tree blooms are in bloom.

Provide adequate new blocks, liners and straws for mason bees to lay their eggs. Remove old nesting sites when you are fairly certain the last females have emerged.

The Orchard mason bee is a cool-weather spring pollinator, with a life span of six to eight weeks.