



## A STEP BY STEP seasonal view of our pollination program

**Determine how many acres to pollinate.** The solitary bees tend to leave a house that has been moved mid-season. Once the bees are established nesting in their house, leave them undisturbed. While the bees will fly about 300' from their house, we recommend one CSA kit for each acre.

In your first year, try out half your acreage and compare yields between the two.

**Determine when you'll need pollination.** Spring bees pollinate February through May and Summer bees pollinate between June and August.

You can order kits that are spring, summer or dual that would include both bees.

**Order CSA acre kits** in early winter and determine when bees should be shipped. For spring bees, we'll mail them to you in February for you to keep in your cooler until needed for pollination. Our spring bees fly best between 53-80°F. We will mail out three sets of Summer bees, a month apart, to provide pollination for about 12-14 weeks. The leafcutter bees fly best in the lower 80's through 110 degrees.

**Set up kit.** It takes about 10 minutes to pound in a few stakes and strap the house tightly. Trays and bird protection are all that's needed for success. See our instructional videos and pictures for more information.

**Set out bees.** The bees are in cocoon form and the adult bees emerge with low 50's temperatures and warmer. If you do not plan to place your bees in the field immediately, keep them in your refrigerator for a few days until the time is right.

Summer bees are ready to be released when they arrive. Detailed instructions are provided with each shipment.

For spring or summer bees, place them out early in the morning. If it's rainy, wait a day while keeping the bees cool.

**See increased produce yield.** Research and field trials show that the native bees are great pollinators due to how they carry their pollen loose on their abdomen and their tight flying radius which has the correct pollen transferred to the right blossom. [\[read more\]](#)

An orchard and farm should find significantly more pollen transfer resulting in more whole-sided apples, more cherries, beans, squash and seeds.

**Bring in bees at end of season, store for winter.** The eggs laid this year in the wood trays are next year's bees. They are a great investment and are easily protected. Once the bees have finished nesting, remove them from the field. For the spring bees, place them in an ambient temperature location for the summer. For summer bees, place them in a cooler location for fall and winter.

**Harvest your cocoons** in the fall for spring bees and in the late spring for summer bees.

Spring bees are harvested in the fall and summer bees in late spring. Harvesting prevents pest buildup. Just like you need to weed, you need to rid your bees of pests. [\[read more\]](#)

**Prepare bees for next season.** Count mason bee cocoons and filled leafcutter hole in the fall. Order missing bees for the following season in January. Expect about 10 leafcutter cocoons to be in each filled hole.

**Repeat!**

For more questions, reach us at [pollination@crowbees.com](mailto:pollination@crowbees.com)