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ACCESSORIES INSTRUCTIONS

HUMIDIBEE™

- Store spring mason bee cocoons in your refrigerator using the HumidiBee, a humidity controlling case. It holds about 1,500 cocoons. Check to make sure the black pad is on top of the green water absorbent “blanket” in the case.
- Place cocoons on top of isolating black pad.
- Add 1-2 tablespoons (15-30ml) of tap water onto the black pad. Don't worry about getting water on the cocoons as their silk casing is waterproof. Each month, check the green sheet for dampness. If dry, add water.
- Store your spring mason bee cocoon-filled HumidiBee in the refrigerator away from the air supply vent that blows in from the freezer compartment. The temperature should be around 34-38° F (1-3°C). We do not recommend storing leafcutter bees in the refrigerator, due to their inclination to mold.
- Moldy mason bee cocoons indicate a nearby mold source. Mold is an airborne spore originating from cheese or other sources. Don't panic about your bee health! Mold can be easily removed with a short 2 to -3-minute soak in a mild bleach solution of 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of bleach to 1 cup (237 ml) of water. Gently blot excess moisture from cocoons before returning them to the HumidiBee and before returning them to the refrigerator.
- Use caution when storing cocoons in a refrigerator with ripening fruit that produces ethylene gas. A garage refrigerator with apples, bananas, etc. may need to be opened periodically to allow gas to escape and to introduce fresh air.
- Hibernating bees survive about 6-7 months on stored fats, and after that will begin to expire. For that reason, release spring mason bees no later than May 1, and release summer leafcutter bees no later than August 1.

INVITABEE Plus+™ for Mason Bees, INVITABEE™ for Leafcutter Bees

Crown Bees developed the InvitaBee Plus+ spray to attract spring mason bees and summer leafcutter bees to your bee house. Mason bees and leafcutter bees both use their own scent pheromones to mark and find their nesting site. Research has shown that the Invitabee Plus+ for Mason Bees is attractive to any of the 350 different species of mason bees in the *Osmia* genus.

- Ensure that you spray InvitaBee Plus+ on the correct size nesting material: larger (8mm) holes for mason bees, smaller holes (6mm) for leafcutter bees.
- For mason bees, do not spray until day temperatures are 52-55°F (11-13°C).
- Add the 5 natural lake bed reeds on top of your nesting holes in the bee house. This also *visually* attracts bees.
- Wearing gloves, point the nozzle of the mister towards the holes and spray about 10 pumps onto the front of the nesting holes. Place out your bee cocoons.
- Keep the remaining 10 pumps for use on another hole set.

MUD MIXTURE for Mason Bees

The mason bee seals each egg chamber with mud. She prefers a clayey mud that is easy to transport to the nest in her mandibles. Without proper moist mud, bees will fly off. This mud mixture can be added to your soil to ensure you have a more correct consistency for your bees. Mason bees prefer to gather mud from the sidewall of a hole in the ground. Dig a small hole, (spade-sized deep/wide) within 20 ft. (6 m) or so from where your bees are nesting. If there are frogs or birds nearby that might eat your mud-gathering bees, place chicken wire or hardware cloth (with no smaller than ¾” (19mm) holes) over your mud hole.

Leaving the dry mud in the bag, open it and add about 1/2 cup water thoroughly mixing it together. Add more water as necessary. It's okay to add too much water as it will dry out later. Place about a 1 inch (25mm) thick layer of mud mixture on the southern side of your dug hole. (This reduces drying out due to sun exposure.) Keep the mud wet/moist. In dry climates or very sandy soil, water the ground and mud each morning with a hose. Consider purchasing our Mud Box as an option to keeping your mud moist for longer periods of time.

BEEGUARDIAN™ BAG

Mason Bees: The BeeGuardian mesh bag is an easy way to protect your developing bees from pests. When mason bee activity ceases, place nesting tubes or reeds, with filled holes facing up, in the bag and tightly close it. Store out of direct sunlight in a garage or shed where temperatures will be similar to outdoor temperatures. Developing larvae can be left in this protective environment until cocoon harvest time. Avoid placing your spring mason bees in a cool location, as they need warm temperatures to develop into bees. Bag is machine washable and can be air dried or machine dried using low heat.

Leafcutter bees: The BeeGuardian mesh bag can also be used to protect hibernating leafcutter bees from pests. In late summer/early spring, after summer bee activity has ceased, place nesting tubes or reeds containing leafcutter larva into bag. Store bag and tubes or reeds in garage or shed until leafcutter harvest time (late winter/early spring).

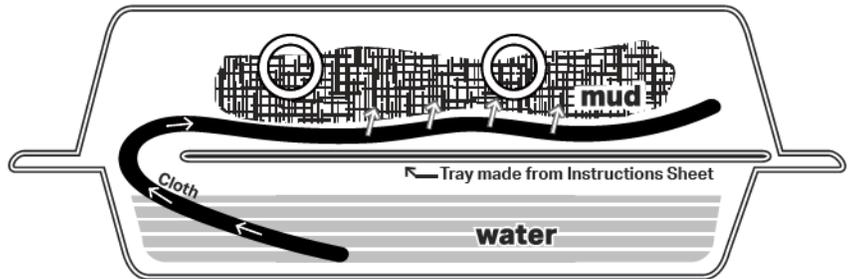
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MASON BEE MUD BOX

Rather than place clayey mud into a hole in the ground and keep it watered daily for optimal moisture, the mason bee mud box uses capillary action to bring water from the reservoir below to the mud just above it.

Make the mud according to the instructions above.

1. Fill the lower chamber with water.
2. Position the black cloth so that one end is at the bottom of the container touching the water to wick moisture to upper chamber.
3. Place the instruction sheet (which acts as a tray) onto the lower container rim effectively pinching the black cloth.
4. Lay the black cloth on top of this instruction sheet. It now lays horizontally and dips down into the water below.
5. Curl the mud log into a "C" shape & place on top of the black cloth.
6. Close the container lid.
7. Position Mud Box within a 25' (8m) radius of your mason bee house in an easily seen area with partial shade.
8. Check the height of water weekly and add water as necessary.



Have questions? Want to learn more? Visit crownbees.com to discover more about solitary bees. We strive to help you be as successful as possible in your bee raising efforts.