

Incubating summer bees

Harvest cocoons from the wood trays. [Read how](#)

Place a portion of cocoons into supplied BeeGuardian bag and secure it tightly. (The remaining cocoons should be stored in a cool place to prevent bee development.)

Place the cocoons in the BeeGuardian bag into a very warm environment like a hot water heater room. The ideal temperature should be about 84°F. Keep the room dark.

Periodically check the developing cocoons. Around 9 days, be very weary for small gnats crawling in the bag. They are tiny parasitic wasps called pteromalus, and will parasitize your developing summer bees. Kill them as they appear. Check daily for this between days 9-14.

Other worms or bugs may appear during the incubation period. They were attracted by the available pollen and overwintered along with your summer bees. Either kill them or throw them outside.

At about 19-25 days, male summer bees should appear. You will know they are males by their beautiful aquamarine eyes. After a lot (50+) males have emerged, the female bees are not far behind.

When you're ready to place the bees out, first place them into a refrigerator for 15 minutes. This will slow the bees down for easier handling.

Place the entire batch of bees and cocoons into the cocoon trays within the bee shelter. While it may be disturbing to have so many bees fly around you at one time, enjoy the moment. These bees are gentle and are just checking their location out and are not concerned about defending anything.

Questions? Reach out to us at pollination@crownbees.com.

The Crown Bees team.

