

Eco-Balanced Bee Haven

- Plant pollen-rich native plants and fruit trees
- Reduce chemicals, like those with neonicotinoids
- Get planting tips from local Native Plant Society



Easy Bee Habitat Set up

- Choose bee-safe house with overhang.
- Use easy-opening nesting tubes, reeds or trays to harvest bees. No bamboo or drilled wood.
- Place moist clayey-mud within 50 feet of the nest. The female uses mud to seal each egg chamber in her nesting hole. A hole in the ground works best!
- Harvest and clean cocoons for healthy bees next season. Easy to do for bee survivability.
- Overwinter cocoons in a refrigerator to ensure they thrive, not just survive for next season.
- Share your excess bees through BeeGAP to increase the bee population. Join at www.crownbees.com/ngc.



No drilled holes

Harvest cocoons

Increase Our Bee Population
2-hours of your time yearly
Protects our food supply

About NGC BeeGAP Partner Crown Bees

Crown Bees, *The Gentle Bee Company*, has a broad reaching mission: to change the way we globally manage our bee pollinators—from the gardener level to commercial farms—to protect and sustain a healthy food supply.



In addition to the BeeGAP program, Crown Bees offers an informative website, bee-safe products, and monthly Bee-Mail for how to's.

Get FREE Bee-Mail Tips

- Find out when to do what each month
- Learn about your gentle pollinators
- Increase bee success for healthy gardens
- Find out about bee harvesting

It's Free! Sign up for Bee-Mail at
www.crownbees.com/bee-mail



NGC BeeGAP is a Partnership Program with

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The Gentle Bee Company

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National Garden Clubs
www.gardenclub.org



In partnership with

Crown Bees
The Gentle Bee Company

GARDENERS PROTECTING OUR FOOD SUPPLY



Why Add Mason Bees

Great Pollinator
For Your Garden

Supplements
Declining Honey Bee



**Bee
GAP**

Gardeners Adding Pollinators
www.crownbees.com/ngc-beegap

NGC BeeGAP Program

Close the bee gap; Protect our food supply



Bees Need You!

Our honey bees are in peril. Our food supply is threatened by loss of bee pollination. While scientists pursue answers, NGC members are coming together to close the bee gap with gentle mason bees. The NGC program, BeeGAP (Gardeners Adding Pollinators), is in partnership with Crown Bees, a gentle bee educator and product retailer for bee-safe products.



Garden Solutions to Protect Food Supply

NGC BeeGAP offers garden solutions with far reaching results. By adding efficient pollinating mason bees to our gardens and yards, we change our perilous dependence on a single-bee pollinator; the honey bee. It's the first step to create multi-bee pollination to protect our food supply.

The gentle-natured mason bee, native to North America, is an excellent supplement to the troubled honey bee. The problem is we need more of them and other solitary bee pollinators.



When teamed with mason bees, honey bees are more efficient pollinators.

Power of NGC BeeGAP

WE NEED BILLIONS OF BEES FOR FOOD CROPS!

NGC members have a powerful voice to protect our food supply. With the BeeGAP solution, members can create awareness and increase the bee population.

NGC BeeGAP Benefits from Crown Bees

- **Club Fund Raiser** discount on mason bee products.
- **Member Savings** on bee products for the garden.
- **Speakers Bureau:** Share the BeeGAP message with free presentation, speaker materials and handouts.
- **Adopt-A-Bee Program:** Get wholesale costs to place out mason and leafcutter bees in community gardens.
- **Bee BuyBack:** Send Crown Bees excess bees for products or cash. Bees are rehomed with gardeners and/or farmers. Ex: 1-cup of cocoons = about \$150.00.

Join NGC BeeGAP at www.crownbees.com/ngc-beegap. For more information about NGC BeeGAP, please contact your Region or State BeeGAP Chairman, or contact NGC BeeGAP Chairman, Bud Qualk BudQualk@gmail.com

How BeeGAP Works



Gardener

- Raises mason bees
- Shares cocoons
- Sends excess bees to BeeGAP

Farmer

- Pollinates with BeeGAP bees
- Supplements honey bees
- Changes from mono to multi-pollination of food supply



POLLINATION PERFORMANCE

One mason bee pollinates 12 lbs of cherries.

This same task requires 60 honey bees.

Miracle of Mason Bees

Mason bees are **solitary** bees with a gentle nature. They rarely sting and are highly efficient pollinators. Mason bees easily outperform honey bees since they gather pollen and nectar in the same flower visit. Sadly, they don't produce honey. Of the 4,000 species of bees in North America, 130+ of them are "cavity nesting" bees, like gentle mason bees.

Amazing Pollinators

Gentle, Rarely Sting

Healthy Garden Yields



Bee pollination produces quality fruit

All Females Are Queens; Do All Activities

Mason bees don't have time to be aggressive. Each female is a queen. She performs all the activities from pollen and nectar gathering, to nest building and egg laying. In her 6-week lifetime, she can lay 20-35 eggs. This leaves no time for nest guarding.

If life-threatened, she may sting, although her sting is akin to a mosquito bite. Also, there's no anaphylactic shock like that of a honey bee sting.

Since these solitary pollinators work alone, there's little need to communicate. We think they learn from one another using a copycat mode. In contrast, social bees, like the honey bee, has one queen. They communicate and work as a team to defend the hive.