

## BEE BOXES

### **Pros for Bees Nesting in the Natural Environment (not bee boxes)**

- Natural nesting material breaks down naturally with time limiting disease and parasite issues.
- Natural nesting also provides habitats for butterflies and songbirds.
- Primary habitat for bees are stems and branches of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, leaf litter, undisturbed ground, dead wood, brush piles and rock piles.
- Clean water source is important for bees such as a birdbath or bowl with some stones.

### **Cons of Installing Bee Boxes**

- Boxes must be cleaned and emptied each year and the tubes and tray must be replaced with new ones. If you buy a mass-produced house, the tubes are glued in and cannot be replaced. If this is not done, parasitic wasps, bees, flies and mites can invade the house.
- Some pre-made houses have tubes that are too short to be of use.
- Tunnels can be too wide causing the bees to use too much energy mudding them up.
- Mass produced houses sometimes lack overhang to protect nests from water, leading to mite problems and often have string or a hook to attach the box allowing swing which can cause eggs to fall off.
- Sometimes mass-produced houses have metal or plastic parts which hold water which can cause bacterial and fungal problems in the nest.

### **If You Really Want a Bee Box**

- Make sure the house receives early morning sun, but is protected from peak hours of sun light
- Mount 5 to 8 feet high
- Tubes should be 6 inches long to insure a good number of female bees
- Tubes must be sealed at the back to stop parasitic insects from entering.
- Protect from wind and rain
- Near fresh water
- Native plants are near by
- House should be cleaned and new tray and tubes must be replaced annually

### **Ensure the Bee Box is From a Reliable Source:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Beediverse</a> (USA/CA)</li><li>• <a href="#">Bee Foster</a> (USA)</li><li>• <a href="#">Garden Towers</a> (USA, CA, AUS)</li><li>• <a href="#">Hive and Garden</a> (USA)</li><li>• <a href="#">Kinsmen</a> (USA)</li><li>• <a href="#">Pollen Bee Nest</a> (USA)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Potting Shed Creations</a> (USA)</li><li>• <a href="#">Prairie Moon Nursery</a> (USA)</li><li>• <a href="#">Territorial Seed Company</a> (USA)</li><li>• <a href="#">WeeBeeHouse</a> (USA)</li><li>• <a href="#">Welliver Outdoor</a></li><li>• Etsy: <a href="#">Rock Pond Nursery</a> (USA)</li><li>• Etsy: <a href="#">Darren910Crafts</a> (USA)</li></ul>
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