

KNOW YOUR POLLINATORS!



shutterstock.com · 1319229431



Mason Bee VS. Honey Bee





MASON BEE VS. HONEY BEE



Mason Bee

- Native to North America
- Solitary Bees
- All females lay eggs and work alone, once males mate their jobs are done
- Can fly in 50F weather and remain within 300 feet of their nest

Honey Bee

- Native to Europe
- Live in a hive together
- 1 queen who lays eggs, worker bees have specific jobs
- Can fly 65F weather and will fly long distances to collect pollen

Mason Bee

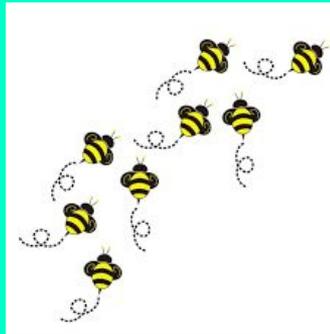
March-June: Bees are emerging from their homes. Males come out first then females. They mate and she starts laying eggs. A single female can lay 25-30 eggs a day. Both males and females die shortly after.

April-June: Eggs hatch, larvae eat food supply then transforms into a cocoon.

June-September: Larvae fully form into adult bees.

September-February: Remain dormant until the weather warms up.

LIFECYCLE



Honey Bee

Eggs are laid during Spring and Summer:

Queen: Emerge 16 days after being laid. Lives 3-4 years!

Worker: Emerge 20 days after being laid. Lives a few weeks during the summer and spring or for months during the winter session.

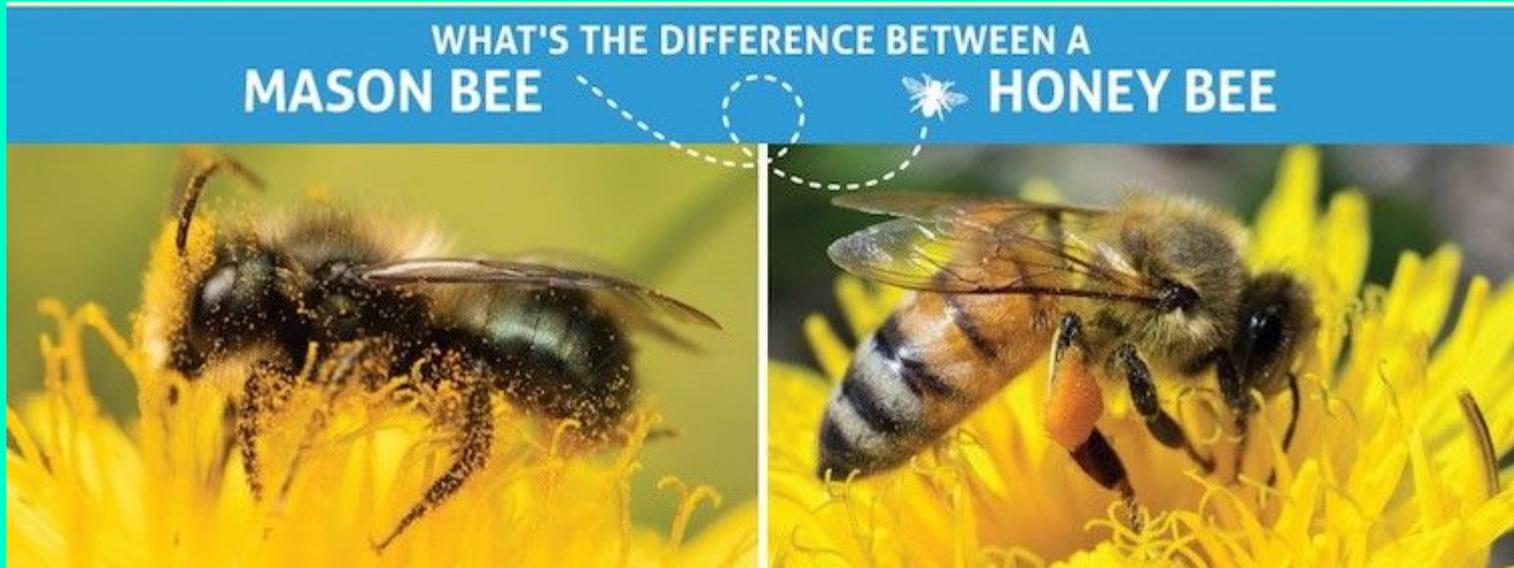
Drone: Emerge 24 days after being laid. Usually die after mating with the Queen.

Fall/Winter: Males bees are removed from the hive since the queen is not laying. This helps preserve resources.

HOW DO THEY COLLECT POLLEN?

Mason Bees belly flop onto flowers collecting pollen all over their bodies. They pollinate 95% of flowers they land on.

Honey Bees carefully gather pollen on their legs. They only pollinate about 5% of the flowers they land on.



PREFERRED CROPS

Mason Bees especially enjoy:

- Apple Trees
- Blueberry Bushes
- Cane Berries
- Cherry Trees



Are any of these native to Oregon?

Honey Bees especially enjoy:

- Apple Trees
- Cranberries
- Melons
- Broccoli
- Almond Trees



WHERE DO THEY LIVE?



Mason Bees live solitary lives where each female lays eggs. They lay eggs in small spaces using mud or other “masonry” products while constructing their nest. Larvae are laid in these structures with walls build with pollen which is a food source for the larvae and mud walls separating each larvae.

Honey Bees live together as a colony in a hive. Here the queen lays eggs while the workers produce honey and wax, and care for the larvae.

