



Leafcutter Bees

The trick to successful gardens is pollination! Leafcutter Bees are exceptional pollinators that will help boost your yields and make your garden flourish! Extend your gardening season with these friendly bees!

What are Leafcutter Bees? Leafcutting bees are important native pollinators of North America. They use cut leaves to construct nests in cavities. They create multiple cells in the nest, each with a single larva and pollen for the larva to eat. Leafcutting bees are important pollinators of wildflowers, fruits, vegetables and other summer crops. Leafcutters are also friendly!

Do they sting? Leafcutter bees are solitary, meaning each female is a queen who does her own work. Because they do not have a hive with a single queen leafcutters do not have anyone to protect and are non-aggressive and extremely gentle. It is still possible to be stung, but very uncommon.

Why are bees important? Bees are responsible for pollinating about one-sixth of the flowering plant species worldwide and approximately 400 different types of agricultural types of plant.

How are Mason Bees and Leafcutters different? Mason bees and Leafcutters are both fantastic pollinators in the PNW, however they both pollinate at different times. The Mason Bees are early pollinators, starting in early spring. When they start to disappear in late spring to summer, the Leafcutters are ready to work! Leafcutters also carry pollen on their abdomen, unlike most bees who use their hind legs. Pollen falls off of this place easily as they move from blossom to blossom, resulting in significant pollination!

How many bees do I need? The amount of bees you need will vary greatly depending on the size of your yard, along with the amount of pollination you need done. It is best to start with one or two sets of bees and let them reproduce throughout the seasons.

Thinking about trying Leafcutter Bees? Here's what you will need!

- Leafcutter Bees- They come in their cocoons in their hibernation stage.
- Housing- Leafcutter bees do need protection from the elements. We have a variety of houses to choose from, along with tube inserts, which the bees will nest in. Houses are best placed in an area with early morning sun.
- **Non-Fibrous Leaves**- Leafcutters make their cocoons out of leaves, if they cannot find the right kind of leaf she will leave and make her home elsewhere. Look for leaves that are not very thick and have few veins in them! Think rose or lilac leaves.
- Things to pollinate- It is important to have many plants for the bees to pollinate so they can support themselves.

Please feel free to call us with any questions you may have! (360)457-8462