



A 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization

SUPPORT NEW JERSEY'S NATIVE BEES



Small Bees. Big Impact.



New Jersey is home to approximately 350 to 450 species of native pollinating bees. These native bees are crucial for local ecosystems and agriculture, featuring high biodiversity.

**Protect their habitats.
Plant native. Make a difference.**

MEET SOME OF NEW JERSEY'S NATIVE BEES

There are more than 400 species of native bees in New Jersey!

NATIVE BEE	WHAT THEY POLLINATE	NESTING HABITAT
 SWEAT BEES (Halictidae)	Aster, Goldenrod, Blueberry, Wild Bergamot, Many Garden Vegetables	Shallow soil, sandy patches, bare ground
 MASON BEES (Osmia spp.)	Blueberry, Cranberry, Tree Fruits, Willow, Many Early Spring Plants	Hollow stems, wooden blocks, small cavities
 BUMBLE BEES (Bombus spp.)	Tomato, Pepper, Eggplant, Clover, Milkweed, Wildflowers	Underground nests, old rodent burrows, leaf litter
 LEAFCUTTER BEES (Megachile spp.)	Alfalfa, Sunflower, Ornamental Flowers, Many Garden Plants	Hollow stems, wood blocks, crevices
 MINING BEES (Andrenidae)	Fruit Trees, Willows, Spring Ephemerals, Many Wildflowers	Underground tunnels in undisturbed soil
 CARPENTER BEES (Xylocopa spp.)	Coneflower, Salvia, Butterfly Weed, Some Garden Plants	Holes in wood, structural lumber, deck rails
 LONG-HORNED BEES (Melissodes spp.)	Sunflower, Evening Primrose, Milkweed, Many Native Wildflowers	Underground nests in open, sandy soil
 SQUASH BEES (Peponapis pruinosa)	Squash, Pumpkin, Melon, Cucumber, Gourd Plants	Underground nests in loose, sandy soil

BIOLOGY & HABITAT

Unlike honeybees most native bees are solitary, with around 70% nesting in the ground and others in hollow stems or wood.

They can be better pollinators than honeybees and are adapted to our local ecosystems.



GROUND NESTS
Tunnels in bare or lightly vegetated soil

HOLLOW STEM NESTS
Use existing stems or wood cavities

WOOD NESTS
Tunnel into soft or weathered wood

LEAF LITTER NESTS
Nest in leaves, grass or plant debris

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



PLANT NATIVE FLOWERS
Provide nectar and pollen all season long.



PROVIDE NESTING SITES
Leave bare soil, add hollow stems or wood blocks.



AVOID PESTICIDES
They can harm bees and their habitats.



LEAVE THE LEAVES
Leaf litter provides nesting and overwintering sites.

Healthy habitats. Healthy bees. Healthy New Jersey.

FUN FACTS ABOUT NATIVE BEES



Native bees are active at different times than honey bees, providing pollination from early spring to late fall.



Many native bees are specialist pollinators, meaning they prefer specific plants—often native wildflowers.



Some native bees can “buzz pollinate”—a special skill that helps release pollen from certain flowers like tomatoes and blueberries.



Native bees are generally gentle and rarely sting.



A single mason bee can do the work of 100 honey bees on a single blueberry bush!



Protecting native bees helps support birds, butterflies, and all wildlife.

NATIVE BEES ARE ACTIVE ALL SEASON LONG!



SPRING

Mining bees, Mason bees, Early Bumble bees



SUMMER

Sweat bees, Leafcutter bees, Bumble bees



LATE SUMMER

Long-horned bees, Carpenter bees, Squash bees



FALL

Bumble bees, Sweat bees, Some Solitary bees

TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT NEW JERSEY'S POLLINATORS!

Learn more. Get involved. Make a difference.

Don Grasso: (856) 513-5831 • Office: (609) 206-1609 • Email: grassopollinatoralliance1@gmail.com

Plant Native.

Protect Habitat.

Support Native Bees.

