



Our Native Bees really need your HELP So why not build them a BEE HOTEL!!!



Noticed that there are fewer bees in your garden lately?
This is due to many factors which include the use of pesticides and the lack of the bees natural habitat
Bees are vital for the cross pollination of flowers, vegetable crops and fruit trees not only for suburban gardens but also for farms, parklands, plant nurseries and community gardens
One way you can help is to re-introduce these often unknown little pollinators back into our environment and they are our very own

AUSTRALIAN SOLITARY NATIVE BEES!!

There are more than 1,500 species of Native Solitary Bees varying in appearance and size from 2mm-10mm

Solitary Bees do not live in hives but nest and lay their young in hollow logs or twigs, old plant stems or cracks in walls
They are non-aggressive and virtually stingless

Native Bees find it difficult to survive in modern gardens planted with virtually pollen free succulents, palms and ornamental grasses

But you can help to re-populate the Native Bee numbers by building a bee hotel in which they can safely nest and lay their young and by also planting some pollen laden plants

So why not get the family together this weekend and make one for your garden its so easy!
The bees and the eco-system will love you for it!



For more info: please see reverse of this flyer & please join the Facebook group: 'Build a Bee Hotel or a Bee Bee&Bee'

Do's and Don'ts of Building a Bee Hotel

There are no building diagrams here for bee hotels and the reason beeeeing is that you are encouraged to use your imagination to create something small and simple (1) or go wild and incorporate the hotel into a magnificent peice of garden sculpture (2)



For the construction, and in keeping with the theme of sustainability, it is preferable to use only natural materials like recycled timber (i.e. old redgum timber fence palings) or maybe an old kitchen cupboard or fruit crate etc. If you have no timber scraps a good source of material is your local builders merchants who often have suitable inexpensive off-cuts. The box does not need to be any deeper than 15cm. Do not use composite materials such as cardboard or particleboard or chip board as they tend to disintegrate in very wet weather.

It can then be filled with a selection of different diameter garden canes or bamboo cut to size or a block of timber with various sized holes drilled into it. Go on a hunt around the garden and see what you can find.... like old hollow twigs or dried plant stems. Remember the bees range in size from 2mm-10mm so its important to vary the size of the 'tunnels' (3)



Here's a few basic rules that must be adhered to if you want to have 'No Vacancies' in your hotel!

- * It is vital that all wood must be untreated
- * If the hotel is to be free standing & fixed securely to a pole, it must be fixed with a solid backing to keep out the wind and rain
- * If it is to be fixed to the wall it does not require a backing but it's a good idea to place chicken wire over it to stabilise the contents.
- * Another absolute necessity is to place a sloping roof on the hotel with a generous overhang and a little bee landing strip would also be appreciated.
- * The hotel must be placed in a warm sunny and sheltered spot at least 1 metre off the ground but no more than 2 metres above it.



So now that you are armed with these helpful hints, all you have to do is let your imagination go wild and be the first of your neighbours to have this unique accommodation for your native bees.

But why stop at one? Why not make some for birthday or Christmas gifts for family and friends. So get beeeeezy and join the proud rank of becoming a 'bee hotelier' Oh and please don't forget
..... to do some pollen friendly plantings....the bees will love you for it!