

# Bee Garden & Bee Hotel Guide



Your **Grow Green @ Home** project is your way to restore local ecosystem, nurture the things you care most about, stay close to home, and help raise money for Nature Canada's Restoration Fund. In addition to fresh air and Vitamin D, studies have shown that spending time in nature can calm blood pressure, stimulate a positive mood and provide even greater sleep benefits.

Did you know that 1 in 4 bumblebee species in North America are collapsing? It's true, and other pollinators face a similar situation. This project will inspire planting flowers and creating habitat features to improve bee health and promote recovery of their falling populations.

## Social Bees

### (Honey Bees & Bumblebees)

Large, yellow & black, live in hives, can be aggressive because they want to protect the queen, good pollinators

## Solitary Bees

### (Tunneling Bees & Ground Nesting Bees)

Smaller, can be many colours, live on their own, less aggressive (many don't have stingers), more efficient pollinators

## Building a Bee Garden



Make sure that when you plant, there is more than just one flower of each species. Pollinators are attracted to spaces where they are able to do some serious foraging before having to move on. Give them this opportunity by planting multiples of each plant you have selected. A diversity of plants is still necessary, but the quantity of each species should be important too! Plant native plants that bloom throughout the year. Include a variety of plants whose bloom-time spans from early spring to late fall to ensure the availability of habitat and food sources throughout the growing season.



Strong winds may discourage pollinators from visiting your garden. When planning your garden, you can keep this in mind, perhaps planting near a building, a fence, a wall or a hedge, may help to lessen the wind felt by the visitors to your pollinator garden.



Insects do a lot of hard work in a day! They need fresh water to drink, but most can't land in open water without risk of drowning. When planning your pollinator garden, include a shallow water source with semi-submerged platforms (flat stones, broken pottery, etc.) at or near ground level, tends to work best!

You can help Tunnel Nesting Bees by building a Bee Hotel. They need to find tunnels in wood that exists around, holes in trees and fence posts. In highly urbanized areas with fewer trees, bee hotels are very important.

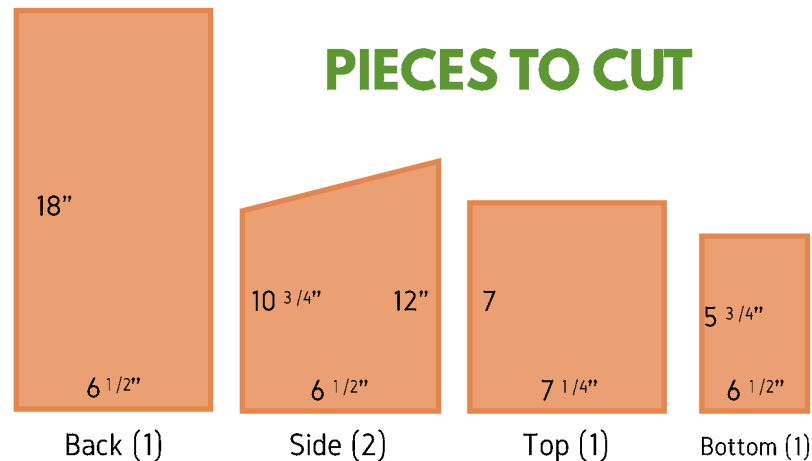
Finding older trees or natural cavities in wood is hard in cities. Bee Hotels can provide a nesting site for tunnel nesting bees to lay their eggs; it is less of a home and more of a nursery.

## Build your own Bee Hotel

1. Measure and cut pieces, side pieces should have a 10 degree angle to ensure sloped roof.
2. Attach pieces, sand the wood and add waterproof stain.
3. Cut pieces of wood blocks, stems, natural stalk, branches or paper straws.
4. Drill holes into wood blocks, use  $3/32''$  –  $3/16''$  and  $4''$ - $6''$  long drill bits.
5. Place tunnels of wood blocks, stems and paper straws in box. Add enough material to ensure it is packed tightly.
6. Place Bee Hotel facing south or southeast next to flower or vegetable garden. Monitor your hotel for bee activity.
7. Be sure to clean and maintain your bee hotel. Once the hotel is empty, clean out the holes and replace with fresh stalks and straw tunnels.



### PIECES TO CUT



Ground Nesting Bees: need patches of soil. Can dig into the ground for their nests. Leave open soil patches for bees to burrow.

## Other Pollinator Friendly Ideas



Limit pesticides and herbicides



Plant native species



Create corridors of wild grass

Thank you so much for joining us to [Grow Green @ Home](#). Thanks for restoring nature near your home! We are so excited to see what you can do. If you have any questions feel free to contact Cheyanne at [crichardson@naturecanada.ca](mailto:crichardson@naturecanada.ca)  
- Take Root, Nurture Nature -

