

GENERAL FACTS

- Bumble bees belong to the genus *Bombus* species, part of the Apidae bee family.
- Mild-mannered in nature, these bees make for excellent pollinators through spring to late autumn.
- Work in perfect unison with leafcutter bees and other bee types.
- Bumble bees are varied in appearance, but typically are plump and densely furry.



KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ Grow more food and flowers
- ✓ Bumble bees can fly in cooler temperatures, unlike a honey bee
- ✓ Increase pollination and crop yields
- ✓ Awesome pollinators of flowers and fruit trees

DID YOU KNOW?

- Bumble bees can visit flowers up to 1-2kms from their colony
- While foraging, bumble bees can reach ground speeds of up to 54km/h



GET INVOLVED

We need community involvement so that we can continue pollinating our gardens, orchards and crops.



<https://www.beegap.co.nz>



BUMBLE BEE NESTING BOX

Information guide



WELCOME

OVERVIEW

Passionate about the future of bees in New Zealand, *Creative Woodcraft* has teamed up with pollination experts to help spread the word and encourage Kiwi gardeners to raise and nurture gentle-natured bees to their backyards.

Bees are vital pollinators for our fruits, nuts, vegetables and flowers. They pollinate 1/3 of our food supply and 1/3 of the feed for our meat sources nationwide.

Historically, commercial growers have relied primarily on the honey bee. However, this social bee is now facing troubles - and while science looks for answers, BeeGAP (in association with *Creative Woodcraft*), offers an excellent pollination supplement with the use of solitary leafcutter bees and bumble bees.



AWESOME POLLINATORS

THE BUMBLE BEE

The bumble bee is typically mild-mannered in nature and make for excellent pollinators through spring to late autumn.

Queen bumble bees emerging after winter hibernation will be looking for suitable nesting habitat, and here's where your Bumble Bee Nesting Box comes into play.

Providing an ideal place to nest, the nesting box will help to encourage bumble bees to take up residence in your garden, creating wide-reaching benefits.



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Before anything, look for a suitable location in your garden. The box should be placed in full or partial shade, to prevent the interior getting too hot and cooking the larvae.

When choosing your site, consider the fact your nesting box should be sheltered from the wind and be at ground level.

Where possible, place your nesting box on some stones/bricks to ensure the bottom of the box is not in direct contact with the ground, and remains dry.

NESTING MATERIAL

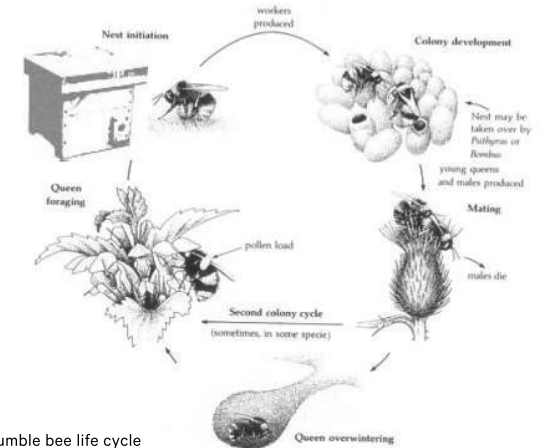
Bumble bees do not collect nesting materials, instead carefully selecting their nest sites already fitted with the materials they need. You have a much greater chance of attracting bumble bees with materials such as dry moss, grass, straw, shredded paper and/or the nesting material that comes complete with your box.

MAINTENANCE

Late autumn is a great time to re-apply an eco friendly water based stain, paint or preservative to the exterior of the Bumble Bee Nesting Box.

Annual maintenance is essential to ensure that your nesting box will last for many years and hold up to any conditions.

Consider adding additional Bumble Bee Nesting Boxes to increase the chances of re-emerging queens taking up residence in YOUR backyard.



Bumble bee life cycle



Bumble bee (*Bombus terrestris*) at the nest



Bumble Bee Nesting Box



For more info visit
www.beegap.co.nz