

There are many kinds of bees in the United States, but you are creating a habitat specifically for MASON BEES. Mason bees are more solitary bees that do not live in a hive or make honey or beeswax like other bees you have seen. Their contribution to people is to pollinate crops and flowers to help provide good food to eat and pretty flowers to enjoy. The name "Mason Bee" is due to their habit of using mud or other "masonry" products in constructing their nests. The females prepare their nests but they do not build them entirely. They use gaps like between bricks or stones, holes in wood made by other insects, or hollow stems or tubes. The habitat you made provides the hollow tubes where Mason bees like to lay their eggs. Within a few days of emerging from her own tube, the female has chosen a nest site and has begun to gather pollen and nectar for her nests that will serve as protection, bedding, and food until the young bees emerge. After the nest is prepared, the bee backs into the hole and lays an egg on top of the mass. After the egg is laid, she creates a wall of mud, which is also the back of the next cell. The process continues until the tube is filled with wall, egg, wall, egg, wall, egg, etc.. Female eggs are laid in the back of the nest and male eggs toward the front, and then she creates one more wall to seal the entrance to the tube.

They are very docile and rarely sting when handled (only when they are under distress such as when wet or squeezed). Their sting is not very painful, but those with insect allergies should still be careful and have their medication close by. Thank you for helping to save Mason bees.