

BUSY BEES!

PROTECTION OF NATIVE BEES

Native bees are important pollinators for native plants, as well as many food crops

There are more than 1,600 species of bee native to Australia

Native bees don't have a queen or food stores to protect, so they are not aggressive and rarely sting

YOU CAN HELP OUR NATIVE BEES!

- Protect their natural habitat
- Plant lots of different flowering plants, and include plants that flower at different times throughout the year
- Don't use pesticides
- Leave some undisturbed ground for them to burrow into
- Leave dead twigs and branches for them to nest in
- Provide some water, perhaps in a bird bath with some pebbles in it
- Build a Bee Hotel (or two!)

Most of our native bees are solitary, meaning they live alone - they don't live in hives, like the introduced honey bee.

Instead, most of our native bees nest in the ground, or in cavities like the inside of a flower stalk or hollow branch



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Bees have a head, thorax and abdomen. They have six legs, two pairs of wings, two antennae, mandibles (jaws) and five eyes!

Teddy Bear Bees are covered in furry orange-brown hairs. They are close relatives of Blue Banded Bees, with both building shallow burrows in soft soil, and often nesting in artificial rammed-earth nests

NATIVE BEES LOVE NATIVE PLANTS!

Some great choices include:

- Acacia (Wattles)
- Banksia
- Bursaria
- Callistemon (Bottlebrushes)
- Correa
- Dianella (Flax-Lilies)
- Eremophila
- Grevillea
- Hakea
- Hardenbergia
- Leptospermum (Tea Trees)
- Pultenaea (Bush Peas)

Leafcutter Bees cut discs of soft plant leaves and weave them together to construct brood cells. They nest in hollow stems, cavities or rock crevices

Green Carpenter Bees are glossy metallic green, with tints of yellow or blue. They cut burrows in flower stalks or soft pithy dead timber

REFERENCES & MORE INFO

- Aussie Bee - aussiebee.com.au
- Bee Aware Brisbane - beeawarebrisbane.org
- Bees Business - beesbusiness.com.au
- Bush Blitz - bushblitz.org.au



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