

MISSOURI'S NATIVE BEES

Missouri is home to hundreds of native bee species.

Most bees are solitary, unlike the social hive-producing honeybee or bumblebee.

They nest singly in the ground, in tree cavities, or in the hollow stems of grasses or wildflowers. Native bees are typically found in places that are relatively undisturbed, are rarely sprayed with pesticides, and support a diversity of native wildflowers.



Metallic Sweat Bee.
Most solitary bee species fly away when disturbed and rarely sting.



The female **Leafcutter Bee** chews circular pieces from soft-leaved plants and uses the cut-outs to build nests.



While the **Honeybee**, an exotic species, is of great value in commercial fruit and vegetable production, it contributes little to pollination of most native plants. They also tussle with native bees for nectar-gathering rights at flowers, thus displacing the more effective native pollinators.



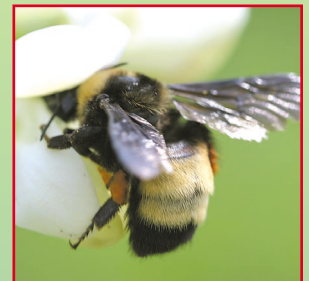
Decurrent False Aster and Bumblebee

Nature's Most Important Pollinators

While gathering nectar from wildflowers, adult bees use specialized leg and body hairs to collect pollen that is later mixed with nectar to make a nutritious food. Some pollen inadvertently falls onto flowers as the bee flies from blossom to blossom. This act is called **pollination** and leads to the production of seeds. Without pollination, seed production and native plant populations can decline or even become extinct.



Carpenter Bee



Bumblebee

Native Wildflower Favorites

Want to attract native bees to your yard or school? Here are a few plants that attract native bees:



Purple Poppy Mallow



Blue Wild Indigo



Prairie Blazingstar



Gray-head Coneflower



White Wild Indigo