

Creating habitat for bees



Bees Motels

Bee hotels are becoming fashionably popular with backyard gardeners who want to create bee habitat, but you must also ensure that you don't attract unwanted predators too. Ensure that your hotels are spaced well apart and near a reliable water source. Keep a regular check on pest insects including spider webs, syrphid fly, hive beetle, mimic wasp and cuckoo bee. Artificial homes can be used by solitary bees including the Resin, Blue-Banded, Leaf-cutter, Reed and Carpenter Bees. Different materials, sizes, depths and diameters will determine the species of bee you will attract to your garden. Materials to use can include bamboo, round branches, blocks of timber, pvc pipes, clay, and/or lantana stems cut and tied together.



Bee motels (above) & ground burrows (below) in a rock garden (Photos : Laura Noble)