

The McCornack Bee Project!



Fall

This fall bring your bee house to McCornack Elementary where our students will clean and prepare larva for resale next spring. The McCornack Bee Project is a great way to save your bees from becoming infested with tiny mites, which cause colonies to fail within 2 to 3 years.

Your support of our school's bee project has helped develop our school garden as well as provided hands on science, health, math, and interpersonal skills development opportunity for our students. Thank you!



Spring

1. Make sure your bee house is located facing south or east, preferably under an eave.
2. Keep the bee cocoons refrigerated until plants in your yard or neighborhood are blooming and daytime temperatures are consistently in the low to mid 50's.
3. Poke a hole in the box of cocoons about the size of a pencil eraser, (5/16") and place it in the "attic" of your bee house. If your bee house does not have an attic, tape the box under the bee house to protect it from the rain.
4. The mason bee range is only a few hundred yards from their house and they are active for just a couple of months. They hatch out in late February/early March and are usually gone by mid-June. You will notice your straws or teasels filling up during this time. If you have a clean house, you can expect your bee population to double each year giving your flowers, fruit trees and vegetables a really solid start. Mason bees work in colder temperatures and seek out many more flowers than their honey bee cousins!
5. By mid to late June remove your bee house and store in a cool, dry place. This will protect the larvae from damp and predators.
6. Return your bee house to McCornack Elementary School by October 15, and we'll get you ready for the following spring. You will receive a certificate for a free box of bees to keep the pollination cycle going in your yard. (Half the tubes need to be filled in order to qualify for the free box of bees.) The boxes of bees will be available at McCornack after February 15.
7. If your house needs repair, we would be happy to do the work for \$5-\$10.
8. Please register your bee house with the McCornack Mason Bee Project so we can keep you updated.
mccornackbees@gmail.com

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<http://mccornack.4j.lane.edu/>