

Blue Orchard Mason Bee Calendar

January-May	Provide early blooming plants.
Mid to Early March	Put out Mason Bee houses and nesting cavities (not the cocoons). 'Local' population of Mason Bees may be looking for a home!
Late March to Mid-April	<p>Place your Mason Bee cocoons into the houses. You may stagger the emergence by placing $\frac{1}{2}$-$\frac{1}{3}$ of the cocoons over 1-3 weeks.</p> <p>Check the weather for 50-55° for 5 days and blooming flowers. All cocoons should be out by mid-April. Do not fill the emergence container more than $\frac{1}{2}$ full. Check fridge for emerging bees if staggering!</p>
Early June	Cover house opening with mesh material or gently place tubes into mesh bag. Ensure that the nesting cavities will not be exposed to excessive heat or direct sunlight. You are providing summertime protection from a parasitic wasp that emerges in the summer in addition to protecting from earwigs, ants, and birds.
October to November	Harvest Cocoons.
November to March	Store cocoons in fridge (34-38°) or protected outdoor area with ventilation. Place cocoons in ventilated container with a damp paper towel or piece of sponge for humidity. Check on cocoons every month to add moisture.