



**HELP US**

# **SAVE THE SOLITARY BEES**

Solitary bees are important native pollinators that are a part of a healthy and diverse ecosystem. Despite their diversity and range, solitary bees are often overlooked because they do not live in colonies or produce honey and their slender shape causes them to be mistaken for wasps and vilified.

*Three ways you can support native bee nesting areas:*

- **Nest in Plants** - By planting sumac, raspberry or elderberry, you are creating nesting sites in your garden for solitary bees. You can also cut and bundle the dry plant parts in the spring after pruning and hang the bundles in trees and bushes.
- **Nest in Ground** - Approximately 70% of bees build their nests in the ground. Tunnel-nesting bees will occupy old beetle tunnels in dead wood or create their own nests in woody plants. Avoid

tilling, irrigation, mulching or covering with landscape fabric.

- **Artificial Nests** - Stem bundles mimic the hollow plant stems that many bees seek out to create their nests in. These can be created by taking a few stems from any hollow woody plant and building them tightly together to create a cluster of potential nesting tunnels. Wood blocks provide potential nesting sites for bees that use existing beetle tunnels or crevices in dead or dying wood.

**Aim for at least three different plants to each blooming season**

IF YOU FIND AN UNWANTED COLONY/NEST, PLEASE  
CALL THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS LANDSCAPE  
HORTICULTURIST AT 403.885.6364

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