



*Yankton*  
*Seed Library*



- Presented by  
Missouri  
Valley  
Master  
Gardeners



## Making Your Yard a Welcome Space for Pollinators



# Mason Bees

- Looks like a black fly
- Is a real bee with 4 wings not 2
- Pollinates by entering flower collecting nectar and pollen



# Where does it get its name?

- The bee rolls nectar and pollen into a ball
- Lays eggs in ball
- Collects soil and packs eggs into a small chamber in nest like a Mason plastering mud



# Mason Bees in South Dakota

- Can survive our winters in a nesting home
- Homes can be purchased or made
- Mason Bees like a light clay soil
- Homes should be hung on south or east side to catch early warmth



# What if I don't have any Mason Bees?

- If you have a house they and they are within several hundred feet they will find you
- You can order Mason Bees
- You need to order them now...



# What do I do if I order Mason Bees

- The bees are being shipped now but no blossoms in SD
- Put shipments in crisper tray of refrigerator
- Release between March and May
- Outdoor temperatures of 55





# Release 1 to 3 days Before Blossoms

- Fruit trees
  - Apple
  - Peach
  - Apricot
  - Plum



# Hatching

- Put cocoons in old prescription bottle
- Drill 9mm hole in bottle
- Will start hatching in 1 to 2 days
- All live bees will hatch in 10 to 15 days



# Nest Care

- Take down about 3 to 4 weeks after last sighting of bees
- Store in cool shady area
- Around first frost put nest in cardboard box
- Place in unheated garage



# Birds and Bees of the Bees

- Females are laid in back of the tubes
- Males hatch first
- Males hang out waiting for females to hatch
- After the females are fertilized males die
- Females collect pollen and lay eggs
- Mason bees lay 1 or 2 eggs per day



# Mason Bee Houses



# Ultimate Bee House



# For Additional Information

- <http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/tunnel-nest-management-xerces-society.pdf>