

Using Your New Solitary Bee Nest Box

Placing the Box in Your Garden

- You can place the box at any height convenient, but it is not recommended that you place it directly on the ground, which would keep the wood wet from the soil and allow ready access to the nest box by ants. We like to put it at a height of about 3 to 5 feet to allow viewing of any bee activity around the box. It's fascinating to watch the bees using the box!
- Many bee experts recommend that if you live in a cooler climate that you place the nest box facing east so that the morning sun can wake up the bees and warm them sooner.
- The nest box is heavy enough that under typical conditions you can simply place it at the top of a 4x4 post or other suitable site (cinder block pillar, stump, etc). If you have trouble with squirrels knocking it down, a bracket can be purchased to attach it with screws to the post or you can remove the bamboo and cedar block and put a screw in from the inside into the post and then replace bamboo and block.
- You can also attach it to the side of a building or hang it by screwing a hook into the top.
- We feel that placing it as close to the flowers the bees will be foraging from is the very best place to site the box, as this saves the female bee using the nest box time and energy going back and forth as she works to gather pollen and return it to the nest. We think the box attractive enough to act as a centerpiece in a flower bed....doing double duty as a functional piece of garden art. One that serves an important role in supporting our native bees.

Maintaining Your Nest Box

- Your nest box will need no attention for a couple of years, but it is recommended by bee experts that the contents be removed or replaced after 2 or 3 years, so that bee pests or diseases do not have the opportunity to become an issue. Please read the PDF provided by The Xerces Society for more information about maintaining your nest box:
<http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/tunnel-nest-management-xerces-society.pdf>
- We offer replacement bamboo and cedar blocks. Just contact us when you need more.
www.CreativeGardenStructures.com

Learning More about Native Bees

We highly recommend visiting these two websites for much more information about our native bees and how to protect and support them:

- The Xerces Society – www.xerces.org
- Pollinator Partnership – www.pollinator.org

