

How to Create Habitat for Stem-nesting Bees

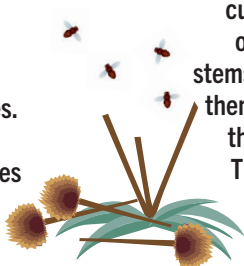


FALL & WINTER

Leave dead flower stalks and flower heads of perennial plants intact. The seeds will be natural “bird feeders,” providing food throughout the winter.

SPRING

Cut back dead flower stalks to varying heights of 8 to 24 inches. The “stem stubble” provides nest cavities for native bees.



Female bees find cut or naturally-occurring open stems, start a nest, then lay an egg on the pollen balls. Their larvae eat the pollen.



SUMMER

New growth of the plant hides the stem stubble.



Bee larvae develop in cut dead stems during the growing season.



FALL



WINTER

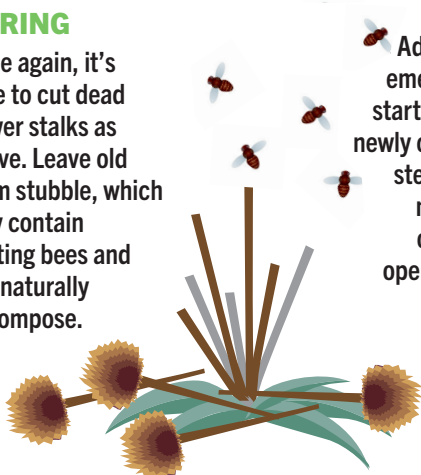


Bees hibernate in stems during the winter.



SPRING

Once again, it's time to cut dead flower stalks as above. Leave old stem stubble, which may contain nesting bees and will naturally decompose.



Adult bees emerge and start nests in newly cut dead stems or in naturally occurring open stems.



Make Your Home a Pollinator Haven

Leaf blowing reduces habitat for fireflies and pollinators. [Here's how to talk to your landscaper about sustainable practices.](#)



[See native trees and wildflowers](#) flourishing at the Drew Forest. Download the self-guided tour.



[Are you mowing correctly?](#) Here's how to reduce chemicals, save water and shrink your lawn.



[Six ways to support butterflies and bees](#), from Dr. Douglas Tallamy's talk in Madison.

