



# Red Mason Bee Calendar

January - December

Month	What to look out for, see and do!
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupae in state of hibernation.</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupae in state of hibernation.</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red Mason bees emerge from their cocoons in the spring, with males the first to come out.</li> <li>The males remain near the nests waiting for the females.</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The male and female Red Mason Bee mate.</li> <li>The male dies and the female starts collecting plant tissue and clay to line each cell in the nest.</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Females visit flowers to gather pollen and nectar to place in each cell.</li> <li>Once enough nectar is gathered, the female bee backs into the cell and lays an egg on top of the nectar.</li> <li>Female Red Mason Bees can lay up to 40 eggs.</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once a female bee has finished creating cells in a nest, she will "plug" the entrance to the tube or cavity with clay.</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The eggs inside each cell will grow and hatch to become larvae.</li> <li>Female Red Mason bees have a life span of just 10-12 weeks. It is rare to see an adult Red Mason Bee in mid/late July.</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The larva will consume all the nectar and start to spin a cocoon around itself.</li> <li>By the end of August the larva will have pupated inside its cocoon and be fully mature.</li> <li>Wildflower Meadow management - Mow the meadow each year in July or August to remove dead plants and to encourage new growth.</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fully mature pupae will stay in a dormant condition inside the cocoon until the following spring when the cycle begins again.</li> <li>Sow wild flower seed in September or early spring to create a wildflower meadow for your Red Mason Bees.</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Now at the "pupa" stage the larva will hibernate for the winter inside its cocoon.</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bee houses can be moved indoors if it is a very cold winter but should be placed outside before spring begins.</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupae in state of hibernation.</li> </ul>

Seeing is believing - Use webcam technology to bring the world outside in to your classroom!

