



# Native Bees of Kansas

When you think of bees, you probably think of hives with hundreds of individuals living together as a colony. But, did you know that most bees live alone? In fact, only around 5% of bee species live in large groups. Nesting in solitary bees most commonly occurs in bare soil burrows, crevices of wood or rock, or excavated cavities in stems or branches.

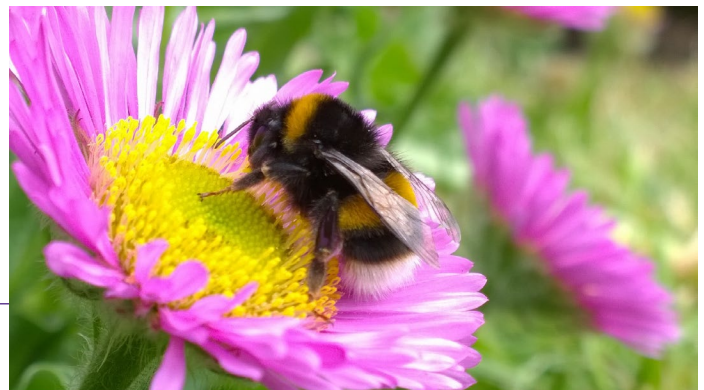
## What can you do to help?

|  | Nest Type      | Nesting Needs  | What You Can Do  |
|--|----------------|--|--|
|   | Ground nesting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soil surface access</li><li>• Dry areas with ample sunlight and sparse vegetation</li><li>• Somewhat sloped ground</li></ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leave a sunny area of your garden or lawn bare, dry, and undisturbed</li><li>• Leave grass to prevent erosion</li><li>• Limit use of herbicide and pesticide near the area</li></ul>   |
|  | Cavity nesting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-excavated holes in wood</li><li>• Hollow twigs or vines</li><li>• Rotting logs and tree stumps</li><li>• Nearby water source</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create a wood pile in an area near flowering plants</li><li>• Plant species such as raspberry, dogwood, or elderberry for pithy stems (cut back stems each year to make access easier for bees)</li><li>• Build bee hotels (see resources)</li></ul> |

## Resources

For more information on native bees and building bee hotels visit the Xerces Society at [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)

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