

Local Bee Nests

Solitary bees pollinate everything from lychee to zucchini. It's a big job for such tiny insects, especially with honeybee populations on the decline. Jim Cane, a research entomologist at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service who studies solitary bees, recommends bolstering their habitat by building this simple bee nest out of bamboo.



Simply tie 15-20 pieces of bamboo, 8" in length together with twine or string. The bamboo should be cut right below the node so that one end is closed and the other open. Place nests horizontally on branches of trees or under the eaves of a house. Choose a spot with southeastern exposure that receives morning sun and afternoon shade.