

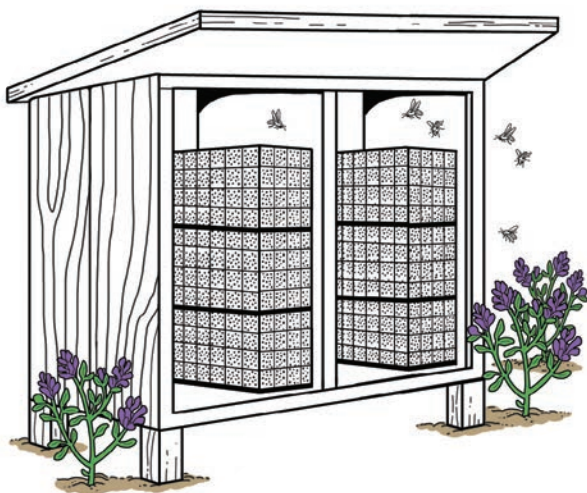
Managed Bees of Oregon

and Where They Live (nest)

For over 9,000 years, humans have been seeking out wild bee nests. From these nests they gather things like wax and honey. The bees in the nests also help them pollinate their crops. Over time, people also figured out how to raise some wild bee species using structures they built themselves. These bees are called **managed bees**. In Oregon we have four types of managed bees: **honey bees**, **leafcutter bees**, **mason bees** and **alkali bees**. Honey bees are raised to make honey and wax and to pollinate crops. Oregon's other managed bees are raised only for pollination. Below are three types of structures used to manage bees:

1 Tubes or blocks

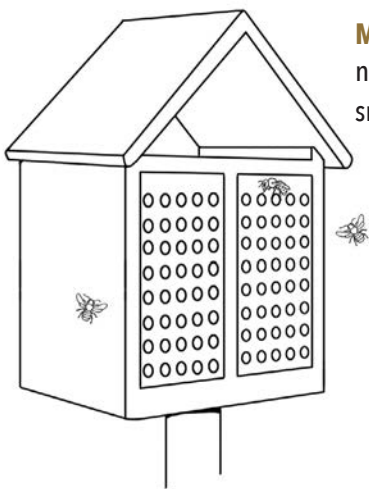
Managed **leafcutter bees** and **mason bees** nest in small tubes or in blocks with many holes in them. Hundreds of blocks or tubes are often stored next to each other in a bee shelter that protects the nests from rain and wind.



A leafcutter-bee shelter in an alfalfa field.

Managed bees do not fly far from their nest. Farmers place these nests next to the flowers being pollinated.

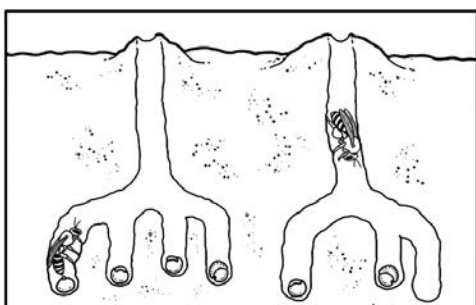
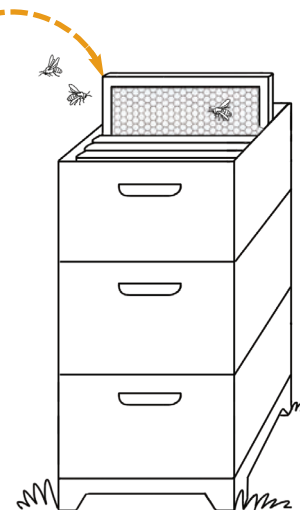
Mason bees nesting in small tubes.



Participants in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program's Spanish-language track holding a frame from a top bar hive.

2 Hives

Honey bees are kept in boxes called hives and are the most common managed bee worldwide.



3 Underground nests

Alkali bees are raised in underground nests.