



Handling of mason bee cocoons

Storage

Store the cocoons immediately very cold (0 - +3 °C) after reception until the time of use.

For spring-time sending: The bees will survive 14 more days with cold temperatures, if already hatched.

For bee-farmer: You can keep the cocoons outside under natural conditions (in a paperbox) until natural hatching time in spring.

Output

Especially the horned mason bee (*Osmia cornuta*) may start hatching half an hour after leaving the fridge in spring-time. Transport the cocoons/bees in a dark box to the field during the early morning or late evening to prevent an early hatching.

Place the cocoons on sunny spot, which is protected from rain and hungry birds and at least 1m above the ground. Best is in between the nesting material. Leave/Place the cocoons in a cardboard-box between the nesting material. Make 2 – 3 little holes in the box, so the bees can crawl out of the dark into the light.

Bee-farmer: *Remove the remains of the cocoons from the orchard after 2 to 3 weeks after hatching, latest in mid May, to prevent an hatching of parasites, in case there are any.*

Time of output

Bees without cooling will hatch during their natural hatching time: Horned mason bee (*Osmia cornuta*) from the end of February to the end of April; the red mason bee (*Osmia bicornis* = *rufa*) from the end of March to the mid of May. Chilled bees can be stored several weeks longer, they start hatching after coming into the warmth.