



Bees



Make your garden bee friendly:

Checklist

- Food sources – plants with plenty of nectar and pollen
- Nest sites
- Range of plants that will flower throughout spring, summer, autumn and winter
- Plants with a range of colours, shapes and sizes
- Plant in groups of same species
- Flat rocks for bees to sun themselves
- Shallow dish of water amongst plants
- Place stones or other items into the water so that bees can drag themselves out if they accidentally fall in
- No insecticides

Bees play an important role in pollinating plants. Australia has over 1500 species of native bees. Many plants cannot be pollinated by introduced bees and are reliant on native species. Bees in urban areas play a vital role in the conservation of local vegetation. Victoria has seven groups of native bees. These include blue-banded bees, homalictus bees, leaf cutter bees and teddy bear bees. Most of Australia's bee species are either solitary or semi-social species. You can help these special creatures by creating a bee friendly garden.



Some bee species found in Whitehorse



Blue-banded bees

Apidae Family

 Size: 13-15 mm

Blue-banded bees are buzz pollinators. These bees will grab onto the flower and shake their entire bodies rapidly. The vibration dislodges the pollen which can then be collected by the bee.



Cuckoo bees

Apidae Family

 Size: 10-13 mm

Cuckoo bees are parasites. They lay their eggs in the nests of other bees. Cuckoo bees have a thick, hard exoskeleton to protect them from host bee attacks.











Leaf Cutter bees

Megachilidae Family

 Size: 8-16 mm

Leaf cutter bees have large, strong jaws which they use to cut and chew leaves and resin to construct their nest. Leaf cutter bees always cut extremely neat circles and ovals.

Suggested plants:

Nectar plants for bees	1	Purple Coral Pea (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>)		
	2	Common Correa (<i>Correa reflexa</i>)		
	3	Sweet Bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>)		
Nectar and pollen plants for bees	4	Prickly Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>)		
	5	Victorian Christmas Bush (<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>)		
	6	Bushy Needlewood (<i>Hakea decurrens</i>)		
Pollen only	7	Messmate (<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>)		
	8	Gold Dust Wattle (<i>Acacia acinacea</i>)		