

# We're thrilled that you've chosen to welcome Leafcutter bees into your life!

We've got you covered with all the information you need below. And remember, our team at Crown Bees is here—just drop us a line at [info@crownsbees.com](mailto:info@crownsbees.com) for any extra buzz on questions or concerns. Your bee journey is just beginning, and we're excited to be a part of it!

## Leafcutter bee Releasing Instructions

Additional information can be found at [Leafcutter bees by Mail Instructions](#)

**Leafcutter bees cannot be stored in the refrigerator for long periods. Do not exceed 30 minutes in the fridge!**

**Bees may have emerged during shipping!** To check, put the entire FedEx package in the fridge for 15 minutes before opening. The cold temps calm the bees and allow you to open without the risk of bees flying away. **The best time to release the bees is Early in the Morning or Late in the Evening.**



\* Leafcutters fly best with consistent daytime temps of at least 75°F/24°C

1. If bees have emerged and your yard and garden are ready, then you can place any emerged bees and un-emerged cocoons inside your bee house. Place the bees and cocoons to a hatchery, or to a small, lidded plastic container that can act as your hatchery when you release the bees inside your bee house. They'll get to work straight away!

2. If some of your bees emerged during shipping, your house hasn't arrived yet, or spring hasn't sprung yet, put the entire FedEx package in the fridge for 15 minutes before opening the bee tube and adding a cotton ball soaked in a mixture of 1 tsp white sugar and 1 tsp water. Place the tube in a naturally cool location inside your home.

Emerged leafcutter bees will only be able to survive in the tube for a few days, so make sure to release emerged bees as soon as your house is set up! If, after 3 days, you still don't have your house set up, release the bees outside near where the house will be located for them to begin the mating, foraging process.

Intact cocoons can't regulate their temperatures, so if temperatures are above 90°F/32°C, you may consider allowing the cocoons to emerge indoors in a [BeeGuard bag](#) and release them in the early morning hours as they emerge.

## Fall: Remove, Protect, & Store developing leafcutter bees

Leafcutter bees will have completed nesting for the season by late summer or early fall, when temperatures cool to 60°F/15°C. Leafcutters hibernate as delicate larvae inside of their leafy cocoons over the fall and winter. Leafcutter bees cannot be stored in the refrigerator like mason bees.

Place nesting holes with the leafy-capped ends face up in a BeeGuard Bag. Store the filled nesting materials in an unheated and unconditioned garage or shed until harvest time the following spring.

### **Year-Round Leafcutter Bee Care**

Additional information can be found at [How to Raise Leafcutter Bees](#)

Ensure the health and vitality of your bees by selecting nesting holes that are simple to open and maintain. By doing so, you can easily harvest leafcutter bee cocoons each spring, effectively leave pests and diseases behind and promote a thriving bee habitat.

Talking to your neighbor about avoiding lawn chemicals before or while bees are nesting can be tricky. To help you get the conversation started, [We've printable information](#) for you to give to your neighbors.

If birds are an issue, add our [Bird Guard](#) with 3/4" openings to your bee house.

**Best wishes!**