

# Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION  
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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**Notes:** Native North American bees also include squash bees (don't), digger bees, cuckoo bees, alkali bees, blueberry bees, sunflower bees and the great-named shaggy fuzzyfoot bee. Sources included "Alternative Pollinators: Native Bees" by the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, <http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/nativebee.html>. Ohio State bee scientists (they study bees, they aren't bees themselves) include Jim Tew of the Department of Entomology and the OARDC Honey Bee Lab at Wooster, <http://beelab.osu.edu>; and Karen Goodell of the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology on Ohio State's Newark campus, <http://www.newark.osu.edu/kgoodell/>.

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**Q. Dear Twig: Are there other bees besides honeybees and bumblebees?**

A. There sure are. North America alone is home to 4,000 native bee species. And they aren't all mean and sting-y but in fact are usually docile ("DOSS-uhl"; calm, no trouble). They range in size from the tiny **sweat bee**, not much bigger than a grain of rice, to the size-of-a-bumblebee **carpenter bee**, as big as or bigger than the end of your thumb, depending on how big your thumb is.

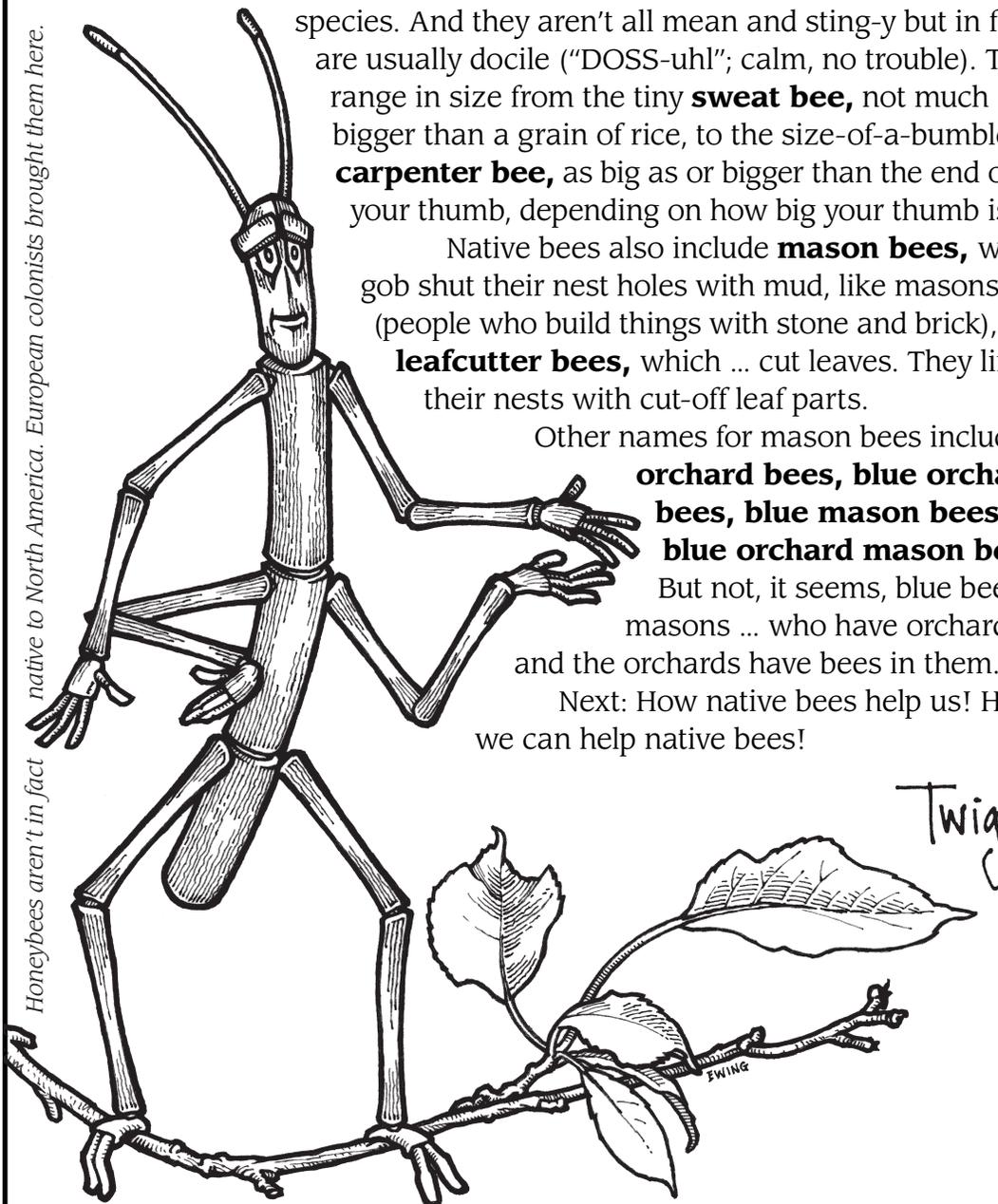
Native bees also include **mason bees**, which gob shut their nest holes with mud, like masons (people who build things with stone and brick), and **leafcutter bees**, which ... cut leaves. They line their nests with cut-off leaf parts.

Other names for mason bees include **orchard bees, blue orchard bees, blue mason bees and blue orchard mason bees.**

But not, it seems, blue bees of masons ... who have orchards ... and the orchards have bees in them.

Next: How native bees help us! How we can help native bees!

Honeybees aren't in fact native to North America. European colonists brought them here.



From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center ([www.oardc.ohio-state.edu](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu)) and OSU Extension ([extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)).