



## COMMAND PEST CONTROL

### Information sheet number 11 - The Mining Bee



#### **Appearance:**

Mining bees resemble the typical honeybee in shape and size. Bodies are coloured dark with fine light brown or yellow hairs.

#### **Breeding:**

Once a cell has adequate food reserves, the female deposits an egg. The hatching larva feeds on the food reserves throughout the summer. Mature larvae pupate and transform in adults during the late summer. Adults spend the winter inside the burrow and will emerge the following spring to start the whole cycle over.

#### **Food:**

Females forage flowers in spring to build up food reserve to raise the young.

#### **Where do Mining bees live?**

Unlike honeybees, mining bees are solitary and do not form large, socially organized nests. Mining bees dig single nests in the soil. In spring, adult bees emerge, mate and begin nest preparation. Bees select exposed, well-drained soils to nest in such as banks, hills and roadside embankment. The bees are solitary nesters, but often construct nests in large numbers next to one another. Each female mines out a cylindrical hole to raise offspring. The nest consists of a vertical tunnel and side cells along side the tunnel for hatching eggs.

#### **Diseases:**

These bees do not carry diseases and are not a threat to man. Mining bees can sting, however they are not easily provoked. The bees are often described as docile.

#### **Damage:**

Mining bees are important pollinators; bees should be tolerated if there is no physical danger posed by the bees. Mining bees are particular about the place where they nest.

**For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049**