

# Monthly Pollen

April

## Native Pollinator



Photo Credit: Benton Soil and Water Conservation District

### Mason Bee, *Osmia spp.*

**Description:** Dark blue, metallic body  
Medium to large body size: 9-11 mm  
Round thorax and abdomen with hair on underside

**Nesting Requirements:** Above-ground cavities (i.e. hollow twigs, logs, beetle burrows and man-made holes)

**Flight Period:** Spring through early summer

**Foraging Habitat:** Generalists

**Social Habits:** Solitary

## Native Plant



Photo Credit: James C. Baugh

### Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum*

**Description:** Showy, pink, five-petaled flowers at the top of leafy, 1-3' stems, 5- to 6-parted, deeply cut leaves, colonizes by thick rhizomes

**Bloom Time:** April - July

**Propagation:** Root Division, Seeds

**Native Habitat:** Dry or moist woods; woodland edges; dappled meadows

**Value:** Recognized by pollination ecologists as attracting large numbers of native bees

## Habitat



Photo Credit: Don Keirstead

### Cavity Nesters

**Habitat:** Cavity nesters like Mason bees use existing tunnels in dead wood or hollow stems of plants to create brooding chambers and hibernate over winter.

**Food Source:** Mason bees emerge in spring and rely on early blooming plants like wild geranium and red maples as a vital food source.

**Public Lands Spotlight:** White Mound County Park, Hemlock Draw