

Life Cycle: Solitary Bees

Solitary bees take one whole year to pass through a complete life cycle, and may only survive as adults for a few weeks. This isn't long enough for them to raise their offspring, so the young bees have to fend for themselves. Some species are cavity nesters and will nest in hollowed twigs or holes in wood or masonry. One species, *Osmia aurulenta*, lives on sand dunes and will only nest in empty snail shells.

Most solitary bees in Ireland are mining bees, and make their nests in bare ground or in south facing banks of stable soil, clay, sand or peat.

