

Table 1.1
Pollination Costs for Various Bee Species

COST OF TWO HONEY BEE COLONIES		
ITEM EXPENSES	INITIAL START-UP	ONGOING ANNUAL
Hive boxes, frames, and miscellaneous equipment	\$500	
Package bees	\$120	
Queen bees		\$30
Supplemental sugar syrup feeding		\$24
Pollen substitute		\$14
Minimal medications (Fumagillin, Api-guard, etc.)		\$80
TOTAL	\$620	\$148
COST OF 20,000 LEAFCUTTER BEES		
ITEM EXPENSES	INITIAL START-UP	ONGOING ANNUAL
One homemade plywood nest shelter	\$50	
Five Styrofoam nest blocks	\$50	\$50
Five cardboard incubation trays	\$50	\$20
One mechanical cell extractor	\$2000	
Two gallons of dormant bee cells	\$100	
Incubation and refrigeration costs	+	+
TOTAL	\$2250+	\$70+
COST OF FOUR BUMBLE BEE COLONIES		
ITEM EXPENSES	INITIAL START-UP	ONGOING ANNUAL
Four annual hives from commercial producer		\$450
TOTAL	\$0	\$450
COST OF 250 FEMALE MASON BEES		
ITEM EXPENSES	INITIAL START-UP	ONGOING ANNUAL
750 dormant cocoons (assumes 250 females)	\$600	
Commercially available nest blocks (500 holes)	\$300	\$60
Paper nest inserts	\$50	\$60
Incubation and refrigeration costs	+	+
TOTAL	\$950+	\$120+

+ indicates that the cost of incubation and refrigeration is not included. These costs will be minimal the first year. The bulk of expenses for incubation and refrigeration will be incurred in year 2 when the beekeeper has a larger population that needs to be maintained for a full season. The expenses will vary depending on the situation.