

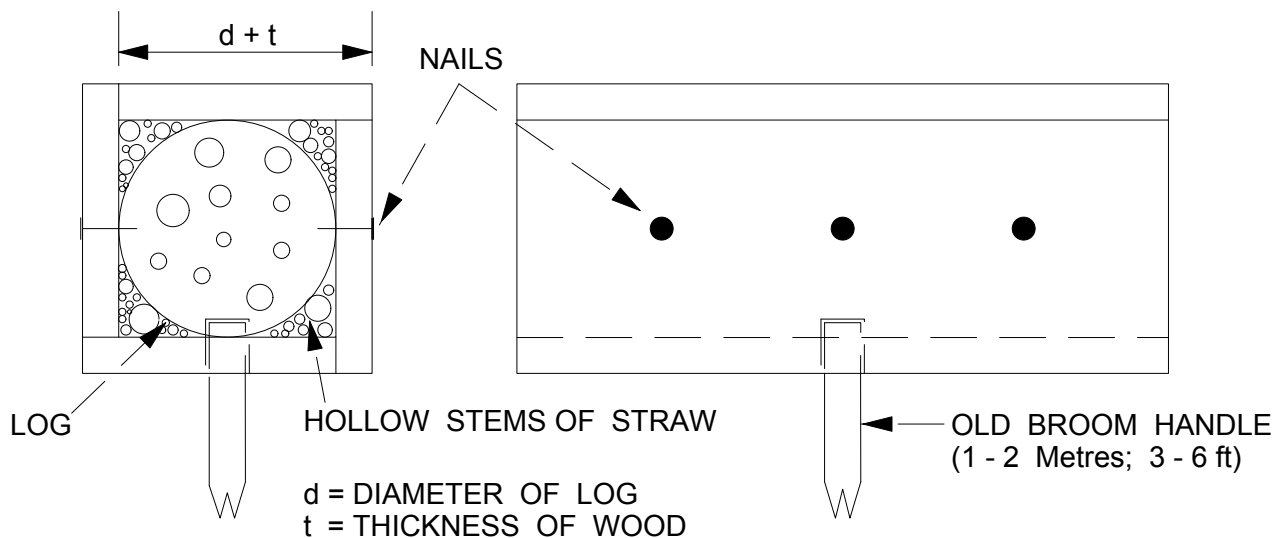
Bee & Wasp Nursery

Many bees & wasps are "solitary", the females laying relatively few eggs that they provision at the time of laying. They lay their eggs in hollow stems or small holes. This "nursery" provides holes drilled in an old log and a collection of old hollow stems for them to lay their eggs in.

Select a log about 10cm (4") in diameter and cut off a piece about 22cm (9") long. Construct an open ended box around the log as shown in the diagram. Nail the sides of the box together and secure the log in position with nails.

Drill a hole through the centre of the underside of the box through into the log to take a broom handle on which the nursery will be mounted. Drill a number of holes (3 - 10mm diameter) about 50mm deep in both ends of the log. Fill the corners between the log and the box with a mixture of straws, hollow lengths of bamboo or other stems collected from your garden in the autumn. If you collect stems from the fields around you do not use hogweed as some people can get a rash from handling this plant. If you cannot identify a plant play safe and leave it alone.

Erect the box in a sunny sheltered spot in your garden.



The nursery design above is relatively simple to construct. The more adventurous of you might like to try making the more attractive hanging nursery shown on the right or you could make the one above with a hook in the centre of one corner and hang it in a similar way.

