

Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP)

Main pollinators of eggplant

FAP field sketch



Main pollinators

Carpenter bees



Banded bees



How to support them

Carpenter bees are much bigger than honeybees and either black or yellow. They are attracted by faba bean, tomato, eggplant and sunflower. They are solitary, the female chew large holes in old wood for their nests (1,2). Keeping old wood in your farm will help attract and support them.

Banded bees are usually smaller than honeybees. They fly very fast and have a black abdomen with clear white stripes. They are attracted by plants with narrow tube flowers like faba bean, sunflower, many aromatic plants (basil, mint, rosemary, sage, oregano, thyme) but also tomato, pepper and eggplant. They are solitary and nest in the ground, often on vertical slopes (3,4). Leaving these nesting areas intact will help support them.

