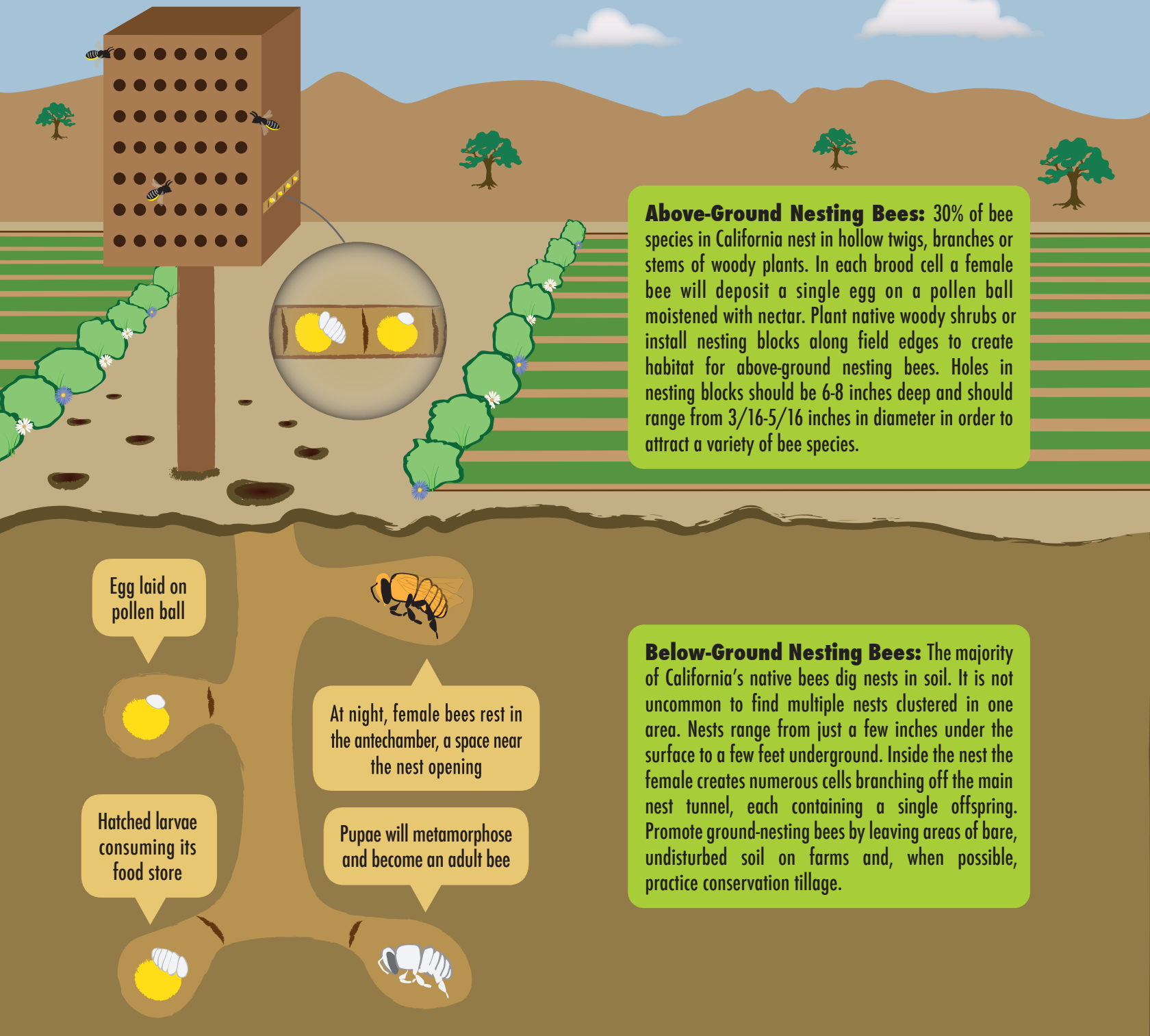


# Native Bee Nesting Habits



**Above-Ground Nesting Bees:** 30% of bee species in California nest in hollow twigs, branches or stems of woody plants. In each brood cell a female bee will deposit a single egg on a pollen ball moistened with nectar. Plant native woody shrubs or install nesting blocks along field edges to create habitat for above-ground nesting bees. Holes in nesting blocks should be 6-8 inches deep and should range from 3/16-5/16 inches in diameter in order to attract a variety of bee species.

Egg laid on pollen ball

At night, female bees rest in the antechamber, a space near the nest opening

Hatched larvae consuming its food store

Pupae will metamorphose and become an adult bee

**Below-Ground Nesting Bees:** The majority of California's native bees dig nests in soil. It is not uncommon to find multiple nests clustered in one area. Nests range from just a few inches under the surface to a few feet underground. Inside the nest the female creates numerous cells branching off the main nest tunnel, each containing a single offspring. Promote ground-nesting bees by leaving areas of bare, undisturbed soil on farms and, when possible, practice conservation tillage.

University of California Cooperative Extension  
70 Cottonwood St., Woodland, CA 95695  
530-666-8734 (office) | <http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu>

100 UC Cooperative Extension University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources



For more information on native bee conservation, please visit:  
[www.Xerces.org](http://www.Xerces.org)  
[www.Pollinator.org](http://www.Pollinator.org)  
[www.PollinatorFarm.wordpress.com](http://www.PollinatorFarm.wordpress.com)  
[www.NativeBeeResearch.wordpress.com](http://www.NativeBeeResearch.wordpress.com)

This research was funded by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, the National Science Foundation, and the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.