Life Cycle of a Solitary Soil-nesting Bee

This small mound of soil around the nest entrance is called the **tumulus**.

Nest entrance

Above ground

Below ground

This is called the **antechamber**, where Mama Bee rests when not collecting pollen.

A mama solitary bee leaving her nest

main tunnel shaft

4

After all the pollen is consumed, the larva transforms into a pupa and eventually into an adult that will dig its way out of the ground to start the cycle all over again next season!

3

Late season larva will have consumed most of the pollen ball.

closed tunnel

Older **larva** on **pollen ball**

closed tunnel

Pupa

1

Each solitary bee mama digs her own nest cells, one by one, and provides enough food for each egg to develop into an adult.

closed tunnel

Larva consuming **pollen ball** in a **closed cell**

2

Mama bee seals each egg and pollen ball safely inside the cell, the egg hatches into a larva, and the larva eats the pollen and grows.

Mama Bee

Egg on a **pollen ball** in an **open cell**