

Leafcutter Bees

There is a lot of leafcutter bee evidence in my south-Calgary garden this year. Some years we don't seem to get any of them visiting, and some years they are out in force. Here is a picture (taken in mid-August) of the damage they caused to a *Rosa 'Thérèse Bugnet'*.

They don't eat the foliage like other pests, but rather use this removed foliage to create places where the female leafcutter bee can lay an egg. The female bee adds a bit of pollen and nectar, lays an egg, and then uses the cut-off leaf parts to either seal up the nesting hole or roll it up into a small sack or tube.

Leafcutter bees are very important pollinators, so while the damage may be a bit unsightly, I actually like seeing it.



by MG Gary Stedman