

COMMON EASTERN BUMBLE BEE

(Bombus impatiens)



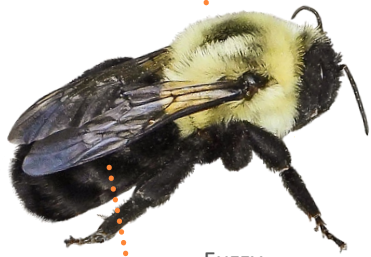
Young queen bumble bees overwinter and when they emerge in spring they lay eggs to build a new colony.

Workers and Males: Egg to adult in 24-26 days.

Pollen and nectar, collected by workers, are stored in wax

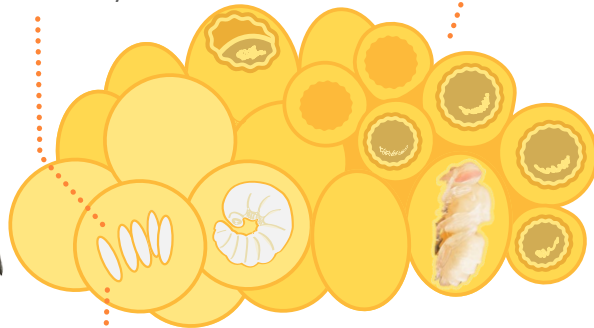
Lemony yellow with black spot

6 abdominal segments



Fuzzy abdomen

QUEEN



Queens: Egg to adult in 37 days.

EGGS

The larva spins a cocoon. The pupa transforms and emerges as an adult bee.

LARVA

PUPA



7 abdominal segments

MALE



Hindleg is used to store pollen.

All workers are females. They forage for food, care for the brood, and defend the nest.

WORKER

Watch and listen carefully while bumble bees visit tomato plants. They produce a high-pitched buzz by vibrating their flight muscles.

This behavior, called buzz pollination, causes flowers to release pollen. Buzz pollinators are more effective than honey bees at pollinating flowers with tightly-held pollen, such as blueberries and peppers.



Bumble bees can benefit from diverse, native habitats that provide food, nest sites, and places to overwinter.

FROM ONE, COME MANY BEES

A colony begins with a single queen bee. She comes out of hibernation in search of food and a nest site. She begins her nest by forming wax pots and collecting pollen. Now, egg laying can begin. Female worker bees are the first to hatch. They take on many roles so that the queen can stay in the nest, laying eggs. Males hatch later in the year, followed by a new generation of queens. New queens must find a mate and fatten up on nectar from fall blooms before they overwinter. The old queen and colony die.

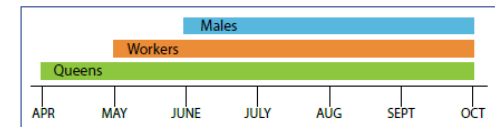
MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF POLLINATOR HABITAT

Bumble bees are generalist pollinators, meaning they forage on a variety of flower species. Native plant diversity and a continuous availability of nectar and pollen are key to high-quality habitat for our native bees. This habitat also benefits monarchs, pheasants, quail, and other wildlife.



Our biologists work with private landowners, using Farm Bill programs to create habitat that provides suitable nesting and overwintering sites for bumble bees. Queens typically take shelter beneath clumps of native bunchgrasses or in abandoned rodent burrows.

THE FLIGHT SEASONS OF A BUMBLE BEE



Bumble bee colonies produce workers, males, and queens at different times of year.

4K NATIVE BEE SPECIES THE US AND CANADA ARE HOME TO MANY BEE SPECIES

47 BOMBUS SPECIES THE NUMBER OF NORTH AMERICAN BUMBLE BEES

200-800 BUMBLE BEES PER COLONY PRODUCED IN ONE SEASON

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's mission is to conserve pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy.

For more information visit pheasantsforever.org or quailforever.org

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1.) **True / False:** Bumble bees can use “buzz pollination” to help extract pollen from certain flowers.

- 2.) **True / False:** Bees have four wings.

- 3.) **True / False:** Only males collect nectar and pollen for the colony.

- 4.) **True / False:** Only queen bumble bees overwinter.

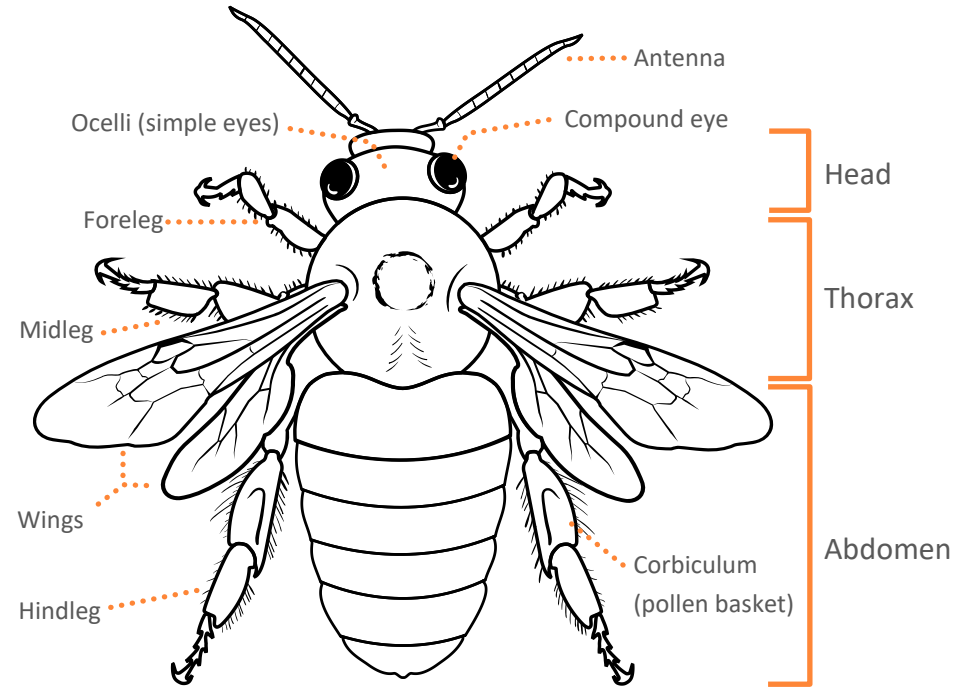
- 5.) **True / False:** Planting lots of different native wildflowers creates great habitat for bumble bees and other wildlife.

BUMBLE BEE WORD SEARCH

B B S P P P S F F C
 U X B L O O M L U Y
 M G Q W H L D O Z F
 B N U O P L L W Z H
 L E E R R I N E Y A
 E C E K A N A R N B
 B T N E I A T B W I
 E A B R R T I E I T
 E R X M I O V E N A
 B U Z Z E R E S G T

POLLINATOR WING
 NECTAR QUEEN
 WORKER NATIVE
 BLOOM BEES
 HABITAT POLLEN
 FLOWER BUZZ
 PRAIRIE FUZZY
 BUMBLEBEE

ANATOMY OF A BUMBLE BEE



GOT HABITAT? This busy bee needs flowers to collect nectar and pollen to fill little wax pots.