

## POLLINATOR PROFILES

# HOVERFLIES

Hoverflies (*Syrphidae*) are a very large family of flies, with over 870 species in North America. They are widely distributed across Canada, as they can adapt to variable climates, and are typically active throughout the day in midsummer.

Hoverflies are highly variable in appearance, but the most commonly seen ones are about 8-12mm long and have yellow and/or orange and black on their abdomen, making them difficult to distinguish from bees and wasps. However, they maintain their unique fly eyes (large with many small segments) and have only one set of wings. They can often be seen in places where there are many flowers. They are distinct in their ability to hover in place while drinking nectar. Their favourite flowers are those with small florets, such as those of the carrot family.

