

# POLLINATOR PROFILES

# BUMBLEBEES



A beloved genus of bee, consisting of over 250 species, bumblebees are called *Bombus*. About 45 species of bumblebees are native to Canada, distributed from coast to coast. They are most abundant (and most easily spotted) in mid-summer through early fall, and prefer cooler times of day - morning and evening.

They are quite large (13-25mm in length)

and are covered in hairs. This and their wide bodies are their most recognizable features. They are typically black and yellow with clear wings. Most species are social bees, with small hives of about 150-200 bees. Their hives are usually found underground in abandoned rodent burrows. You're most likely to see bumblebees out gathering nectar and pollen. Their favourite plants are violet and blue flowers.

Fun fact: Females can sting multiple times; males, however, have no stinger at all!

