

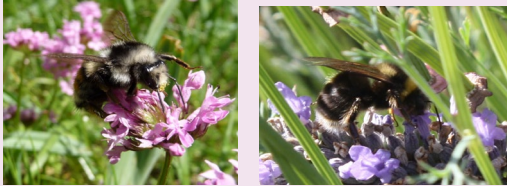
POLLINATORS OF B.C.

Female bees are the most important pollinators in our region.

Bees collect pollen and nectar to feed their offspring, so they visit more flowers per unit time and are more likely to contact and move pollen than other flower visitors. But, any animal that visits a flower has the potential to be a pollinator! Almost 90% of flowering plants need pollinators to reproduce, so bees are important for ecosystem stability. In B.C., we have almost 500 species of bee!

Bumble Bees

- Social (have queens + workers)
- Nest in existing cavities: in ground, or bird houses
- Active all year: Spring, Summer, early Fall



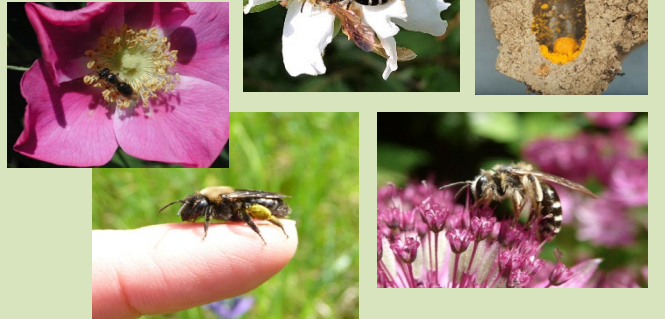
Sweat Bees

- Solitary to Semi-social, vary in size
- Ground-nesters
- Spring and summer



Mining Bees

- Solitary
- Ground-nesters
- Mostly spring



Hairy-Belly Bees

- Solitary
- Cavity- or Ground-nesters
- Masons in spring, use mud
- Leafcutters summer, use leaves



Honey Bees

- Highly Social
- Non-native, managed bees



Others

- Flies, wasps, butterflies, moths, beetles, and birds can all pollinate



Planting for Pollinators!

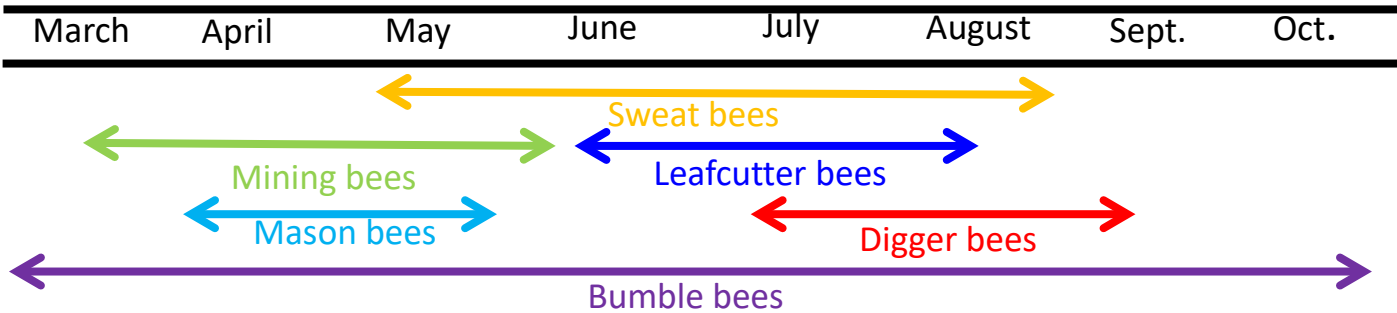
Like all animals, pollinators need two things: food and homes. Different bees make nests in different places (see other side) and need pollen and nectar to eat and feed to their young. Other pollinators need flowers for food, too. Providing habitat is the best thing you can do for pollinators!

Long bloom time is important

Most of BC's bees have a single generation a year, and are active for just 4-6 weeks. Blooms throughout the year will support the most diversity.



Left to right: tall Oregon grape, red-flowering currant, red-osier dogwood, snowberry, Nootka rose, fireweed, goldenrod, aster. These plants are all native to southwestern B.C.



Diverse flower colours, shapes, and sizes support diverse pollinators!

“Easy-access” flowers (flat or bowl-shaped, with visible pollen) support **all** pollinators: *plant lots!*



Clockwise from upper left: Gumweed (sunflower family), salmonberry (rose family), apple (rose family) and fennel (carrot family).

Tubular & complex flowers exclude small or short-tongue pollinators: include, but use less



Clockwise from upper left: lupine (pea family), crocosmia (iris family), catnip (mint family), wax currant (gooseberry family).

Other things to consider:

- Plant native plants if you can, but non-invasive garden plants are good for pollinators too
- Even a small effort can help—a pot of lavender on your balcony for example!
- Always avoid pesticides (even “organic” ones)

Regional pollinator-friendly planting ideas:

- xerces.org
 - pollinator.org/guides
- My website: ElizabethElleEcology.ca