

Bumble Bees

Size: Adults workers vary from 3/8 – 1" long.
Queens 3/4 – 1" long.

Description:

- Colour is black and yellow – with overall fuzzy/hairy appearances.
- Very round and robust in shape form..
- Antenna 12 segmented in females and 13 segmented in males.
- Female abdomen tip pointed, male abdomen tip rounded.
- Bumble Bees wings don't look large enough compared to their body.
- Very clumsy and sluggish flyers.
- Stinger is present.



Biology and Habits: Bumble Bees are social insects that live in colonies. These colonies are usually established in suitable ground cover cavities such as holes, leaf piles etc. We have also observed them in structure related areas for example in BBQ's, inside old sheds, railway ties, and under ground level sub floors of buildings etc.

In spring you will observe foraging Bumble Bees constantly searching for nectar in flower blossoms in and around their colony location, traveling up to 3 miles from their nest. Bumble Bee workers do not exchange honey or pollen with other workers, they forage independently.

They are not aggressive during nectar foraging and solely focus on food collection unless their nest is disturbed. They can inflict multiple stings to defend their nest.

Bumble Bee nests vary tremendously in size. Some will have 50 up to as high as 500 bees in a nest. Nests consist of sterile females, one queen and males. By late summer only males and new queens are reared in the nest. These late season females mate with the males and then leave to locate a suitable ground cavity to overwinter.

All Bees including the original queen from the spring have completed their life cycle and perish before winter. In the spring the new queens emerge and locate a suitable nest site so they can begin to build their new colony.

Control: Due to the non-aggressive nature of these bees, combined with their beneficial pollinating during spring and summer, serious consideration should be given when deciding to eliminate a nest. Only if the nest is too close to your home and your daily activities should the nest be treated and removed.

If nest elimination is necessary we use a variety of different treatment methods. Depending on the nest location and surrounding conditions, we sometimes dust, liquid spray applications or aerosol treatments to ensure safety, rapid knockdown and elimination.

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