

Common Bees of Detroit

Look out for these bees flying around near you!



Common Name: European Honey bee

Scientific Name: *Apis mellifera*

Size: 10-15 mm

What we commonly know as "the honey bee"
This fuzzy bee has black and brown stripes
and lives in a hive.



Common Name: Tri-Colored Bumble Bee

Scientific Name: *Bombus ternarius*

Size: 9-18mm

Has a distinctive orange belt around its
midsection along with yellow and black on the
fur on the rest of the bee. This bee is fuzzy and
nests on the ground.



Common Name: Golden Northern Bumble Bee

Scientific Name: *Bombus fervidas*

Size: 13-16mm

Almost of the fur on this bee is yellow and
covers the abdomen and thorax completely.
These bees tend to build nests above ground,
but some can be found at ground level.



Common Name: Orchard Mason bee

Scientific Name: *Osmia lignaria*

Size: 9-11 mm

These bees are often a metallic blue or green.
Builds nests in reeds and thick stems.



Common Name: Eastern Carpenter bee

Scientific Name: *Xylocopa virginica*

Size: 19-23mm

This bee is similar in size to bumble bees, but
has significantly less hair and is mostly metallic.
They nest and reside in heavily wooded areas.



Common Name: Small Carpenter Bee

Scientific Name: *Ceratina spp.*

Size: <8mm

These bees are very small, have little fur,
and are usually dark colors.



Common Name: American Bumble Bee

Scientific Name: *Bombus pennsylvanicus*

Size: 13-19mm

These iconic bumble bees are yellow and black
striped, but are darker than species with a
similar pattern and have shorter fur. These bees
use long grasses to make above-ground nests.



Common Name: Leafcutter bee

Scientific Name: *Megachile spp.*

Size: 6-18mm

These bees usually have stout bodies and
unique black and yellow patterns. They make
nests in natural crevices like hollow twigs and
holes in the ground.



Common Name: Sweat Bee

Scientific Name: *Lasioglossum spp.*

Size: 2-8mm

This group of bees is highly variable but
most are a dusty brown, black, or bluish
color. They are all slender and much
smaller than other types of bees.



Common Name: Mining bee

Scientific Name: *Andrena spp.*

Size: 8-17mm

These bees are usually a combination of
black and dark yellow or brown fur. Nest
in sandy soils and other loose terrain.



Common Name: Leaf-cutter Bee

Scientific Name: *Dianthidium spp.*

Size: 16-20mm

These bees have less fur than many other
types of bees and tend to have a combination
of black, yellow, and orange coloring. They
create nests by gluing together leaves or
pebbles and burrowing into the mass.



Common Name: Two-spotted Longhorn Bee

Scientific Name: *Melissodes bimaculatus*

Size: 13-16mm

Almost entirely black and metallic with some
small tufts of brown hair. In contrast, the legs of
these bees are often quite pale.



Common Name: Augochlora Sweat Bee

Scientific Name: *Augochlora pura*

Size: 6-8mm

These bees are bright green and metallic which makes them easy to
identify. They often find homes in hollowed out logs or branches.



Common Name: Agapostemon Sweat Bee

Scientific Name: *Agapostemon spp.*

Size: 6-7mm

This bee is noticeable metallic green or blue with a yellow-striped abdomen. These
bees make communal nests in the ground and are sometimes seen to be social.

Don't Bee Fooled! I'm not a Bee!



Common Name: Social Wasp

Scientific Name: *Polistes spp.*

Usually larger and faster than most bees.



Common Name: Cicada Killer

Scientific Name: *Sphecius speciosus*

Predatory towards other insects and much
bigger and redder than bees.



Common Name: Robber Fly

Scientific Name: *Laphia spp.*

Skinnier than real bees and feeds on
other insects.

Want to know more?

Visit <https://thehoneybeeconservancy.org/beeblitz/>

Resources:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/uploads/files/Bees.pdf>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/234/74792/Gibbs_-_Master_Gardener_Smaller.pdf

<https://www.insectidentification.org/insects-by-type-and-region.asp?thisState=michigan&thisType=Bee,%20Ant,%20Wasp%20and%20Similar>