

Did you know?

- Alberta has over 300 species of native bees, and we rely on these bees and other insects to pollinate our food and wildflowers.
- Bees are generally much hairier than wasps.
- Wasps often have narrower bodies with a defined "waist."
- Bees and wasps have 4 wings, long antennae, and oval eyes on the side of their head. Flies have 2 wings, short antennae, and round, forward-facing eyes.
- You can help bees and other pollinators by planting a wide variety of native wildflowers, leaving bare soil and leaf litter, and putting up a bee hotel.



The Edmonton and Area Land Trust conserves nature in Edmonton and area, engaging people and communities in land conservation and stewardship.

Our conservation lands provide essential habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, opportunities for people to connect with nature, and many other environmental, social, and health benefits for all.



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Bee Identification Guide





Bombus
Bumble bees

- Nest in ground in an annual colony
- Very large-bodied & robust
- Dense hairs in combinations of black, yellow, & red
- Make a loud buzzing sound



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Hylaeus
Masked bees

- Nest in cavities using a cellophane- like substance they secrete
- Very small, primarily black, wasp-like, yellow markings, few hairs



Ashton Sturm

Lasioglossum
Sweat bees

- Nest in the ground
- Variable in size with many very small species
- Often metallic-looking
- Weak wing venation

Megachile
Leaf cutter bees

- Nest in cavities, using cut up leaves to build nests
- Scopal hairs for collecting pollen on bottom of abdomen



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Andrena
Miner bees

- Nest in ground
- Medium sized
- Black-brown with red colouring
- Facial fovea (depressions beside each eye)



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Nomada
Cuckoo bees

- Lay eggs in the nests of other bees (cleptoparasite)
- Wasp-like
- Often red with yellow & black banding



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Cory Sheffield

Osmia
Mason bees

- Nest in cavities using mud
- Metallic blue and scopal hairs on bottom of abdomen
- Females use horns on face to pack mud



Anthophora
Digger bees

- Nest in ground
- Smaller & more narrow than bumble bees
- Light coloured hairs
- "Shiver" to warm up in cool weather



Apis
Honey bees

- Nest in hives
- Non-native social bee brought from Europe to produce honey
- Three types of honey bees in a hive: workers, drones, and the queen

