

FAST FACTS

- Certain species of bees *die* after stinging. That is because their stingers are attached to their abdomen, and have little barbs or hooks on them. When the bee tries to fly away after stinging something, part of the abdomen is ripped away and it dies.
- Bees make honey to feed their young and so they have something to eat during the winter.
- Beekeepers use smoke to calm bees when they are collecting honey or relocating a hive.

General Information

Bumblebees are considered to be beneficial insects because they **pollinate** crops and plants. They are very social bees and live in large “families”.

Unlike honeybees, bumblebees can sting more than once because their stingers are smooth and don’t get caught in the skin when they fly away.

Size: 1”	Common Name: Bumble Bees
Shape: Oval	Kingdom: Animalia
Color: Black with yellow stripes.	Phylum: Arthropoda
Legs: 6	Class: Insecta
Wings: Yes	Order: Hymenoptera
Antenna: Yes	Family: Apidae
	Genus Species: Bombus

Diet

Worker bees gather both pollen and nectar from flowers to feed to the **larvae** and other members of the colony.

Habitat

Bumblebees often nest in the ground, but can be found above ground around patio areas or decks. They will sometimes build their nests in attics or under roof beams. If disturbed, bumblebees will buzz in a loud volume, and they will aggressively defend their nests.

Impact

As part of the aggressive defense of their nests, bumblebees will chase nest invaders for long distances. The bumblebee sting is one of the most painful stings. Swelling and irritation can last for days after you are actually stung.

Prevention

* Bumblebees can be prevented through inspection of potential nesting areas and removal of potential nesting materials.

* Because bumblebees will sting when threatened, homeowners are advised not to address the infestation themselves. A pest management professional or beekeeper should be called in to help.

To learn more about this and other bees, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/bees.html>



BUMBLE BEE INFO SHEET