

# WHY ARE POLLINATORS IMPORTANT?



Pollinate over 85% of flowering plants species on Earth

Pollinate our food plants, contributing to

- 1/3 bites we eat
- our most nutritious and tasty foods

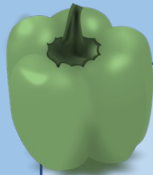


Help produce dairy and meats by providing high protein feed



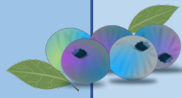
## CARROT

Masked bee  
(*Hylaeus* sp.)



## PEPPER

Black and gold  
bumble bee  
(*Bombus auricomus*)



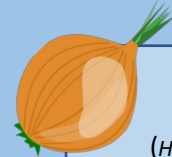
## BLUEBERRY

Southeastern  
blueberry bee  
(*Habropoda laboriosa*)



## CANTALOUPE

Squash bee  
(*Peponapis pruinosa*)



## ONION

Sweat bee  
(*Halictus ligatus*)



## TOMATO

Eastern bumble bee  
(*Bombus impatiens*)



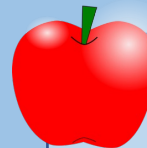
## CUCUMBER

Longhorn bee  
(*Melissodes bimaculata*)



## STRAWBERRY

Small carpenter bee  
(*Ceratina* sp.)



## APPLE

Mining bee  
(*Andrena* sp.)



## CHEESE\*

Alfalfa leafcutter bee  
(*Megachile rotundata*)



\* Alfalfa is fed to dairy cows because of its high nutritional value

Use this key to figure out which foods on your lunch tray need bees.

# MORE ABOUT YOUR POLLINATORS



There are more than 24,000 types of bee in the world.

Missouri alone has over **450** species!



Bees come in all colors (including blue, green, & red) and sizes, from smaller than an eyelash to longer than a quarter  
Most bees nest in the ground & are solitary (no workers or queens)



## **MASKED BEE** (*Hylaeus* sp.)

Small, mostly black, bees with unique white or yellow face markings that look like superhero masks

Carry pollen in a special "tummy" and pull it back up to feed their young.

Make cellophane-like material to keep water and pests out.



## **BLACK & GOLD BUMBLE BEE** (*Bombus auricomus*)

One of our largest local bumble bees.

Like other bumble bees, ...are social with annual colonies started each spring by new queens.

...shiver to raise their body temperature and forage in cooler temperatures than other bees



## **SOUTHEASTERN BLUEBERRY BEE** (*Habropoda laboriosa*)

Solitary bee that nests in the ground.

Only collects pollen from blueberry flowers.

Blueberries need buzz pollination to release pollen. Only blueberry and bumble bees can pollinate them.



## **SQUASH BEE** (*Peponapis pruinosa*)

Solitary bee that nests in the ground.

Only collects pollen from squashes and melons, so they are active before sunrise when they blossoms open.

Male squash bees sleep inside flowers at night, often in groups.



## **SWEAT BEE** (*Halictus ligatus*)

One of the most common bees found in our region

Has a large range, found from the Arctic Circle to Venezuela, South America.

Can be social or solitary, depending on the environment.



## **EASTERN BUMBLE BEE** (*Bombus impatiens*)

One of the most common bumble bees of the eastern United States.

Bumble bees are one of the few types of bees that can "buzz pollinate" to release pollen from tomatoes and their relatives. Honey bees cannot buzz pollinate.



## **TWO-SPOTTED LONGHORN BEE** (*Melissodes bimaculata*)

They get their name from the extra long antennae of the males.

The females have long hairs on their legs for carrying pollen.

Nests in burrows dug into the ground by the female.



## **SMALL CARPENTER BEE** (*Ceratina* sp.)

Small solitary bees that are often dark, iridescent blue-green.

Females nest in the broken or cut stems of various wildflowers and shrubs from which they chew out the soft centers.



## **MINING BEE** (*Andrena* sp.)

Have unique "eyebrows", dense hairs that run along their large, compound eye.

Abundant during the spring, making them great pollinators of fruits peaches and apples.

Solitary bees that nest in the ground.



## **LEAFCUTTER BEE** (*Megachile* sp.)

Carries pollen on the underside of its belly (abdomen), not on its legs like other bees.

Cut circular sections of leaves or flower petals to line their nest.

Build their solitary nests in cavities of rotting wood or hollow stems.