

# BUMBLE BEES

*Bombus* sp.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

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Bumblebees are medium to large-sized (1/2"-1"), densely haired, and black with yellow stripes. They are commonly seen in gardens, weedy areas, and natural habitats. They live in social communities consisting of queens, drones, and workers. The large queen overwinters, and in springtime seeks a secluded hollow place or debris to begin the colony. She then gathers pollen, nectar, and lays her eggs. The resulting offspring are the much smaller workers which take over gathering of pollen, nectar, and the construction of brood cells. Many kinds of flowers are visited.

Bumblebees self-regulate their body temperature. They are active at cooler temperatures, and are active early and late in the day. The bee is not aggressive and will leave you alone if you leave them alone. If you work around their hive and accidentally disturb them, you may get stung. The bumblebee can repeatedly sting (unlike the honeybee) and the stings are painful, usually giving only brief discomfort. However, some people are hypersensitive to bee stings and experience adverse reactions very quickly. Persons so affected, should contact their doctor *immediately* (or the Orange County Medical Association for a doctor's reference) and secure a prescription or treatment with a specific antidote. Treatment in these cases should be *immediate*. Applying damp baking soda to the sting site, a saturated cloth of household ammonia (diluted with seven parts water), or a pat of mud will help alleviate the discomfort.

This information is provided to help homeowners with their pest problems. Insecticides may be purchased at nurseries, hardware, farm supply, and pet stores. If additional help is needed, contact with a registered pest control operator is suggested.

No endorsement of trade names or products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

## PRECAUTIONS

1. Handle insecticides with care and follow instructions on the label.
2. Do not use around open flame or exposed foods, and always clean food preparation areas after the use of pesticides.
3. Store out of reach of children and pets, preferably in locked cabinets.
4. Never keep pesticides in anything other than the original container.
5. Never reuse the pesticide container to store any other materials.
6. Dispose of all empty containers properly by placing them in the trash can for removal to the local disposal area.



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