

Identifying Bumble Bees in Utah



Bumble bee species (*Bombus*) share some defining features that will help you distinguish them from other types of insects:



Bumble bees have furry, rounded bodies, large black eyes, and bent antennae.

They fly fairly slowly, buzz the flowers they visit, climb among blooms on the same flower stalk, and are quite docile – they rarely sting unless defending their nest.



They can have black, buff, yellow, red/orange, or white body segments, and brown wings. They collect pollen on leg 'baskets' and can fly in low light and cool temps.

Identifying bumble bees from look-alikes

Face



Wings



Abdomen







Body




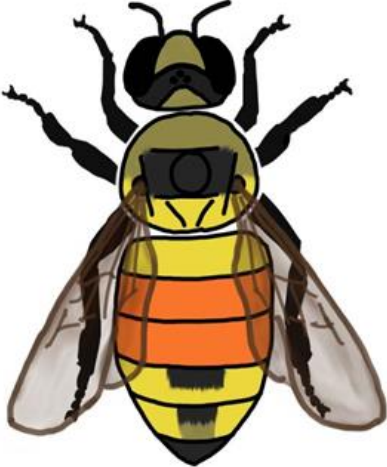


Not bumble bees!







Recognizing Utah Bumble Bees

Hunt's bumble bee - common in high desert scrub - hair short and even - medium body size	Two-form bumble bee - common in grassy prairies, mountain meadows - hair short and even - small body size	Central bumble bee - moderately common in grassy prairies and mountain meadows - hair short and even - small body size	Yellow-fronted bumble bee - common in mountain meadows near forests - hair medium - small body size
 <p>huntii</p>	 <p>bifarius</p>	 <p>centralis</p>	 <p>flavifrons</p>





Recognizing Utah Bumble Bees

<p>Forest bumble bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - moderately common in open grassy areas, mountain meadows above 7800 ft - hair long and uneven - small body size 	<p>Black tail bumble bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - common in open grassy areas, shrubland below 6500 ft - hair short and even - small body size 	<p>Red-belted bumble bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - common close to or within wooded areas - hair short and even - small body size 	<p>Western bumble bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - formerly common in open grassy areas, mountain meadows, found at high elevation - hair moderately short and even - medium body size <p><i>*IN STEEP DECLINE*</i></p>
 <p><i>sylvicola</i></p>	 <p><i>melanopygus</i></p>	 <p><i>rufocinctus</i></p>	 <p><i>occidentalis</i></p>



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<p>Golden-northern bumble bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - slowly declining in range; open grassland, farmland, parks, gardens - hair medium and even - medium body size 	<p>Sonoran bumble bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - often found on sunflowers, nightshades and globe mallows - low elevations and deserts, mainly SW Utah - hair short and even - large body size 	<p>Nevada bumble bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - moderately common in open grassy prairies and meadows below 6500 ft - hair very short and even - large body size 	<p>Morrison's bumble bee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - uncommon and possibly declining, in open dry scrub - hair very short and even - large body size
 <p>fervidus</p>	 <p>sonorus</p>	 <p>nevadensis</p>	 <p>morrisoni</p>

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White-shouldered bumble bee - found in open meadows and granite soil slopes - hair medium and even - large body size	Brown-belted bumble bee - common in open farmland, fields, parks, gardens, and wetlands - hair very short and even - medium body size	Golden-belted bumble bee - uncommon; found in open boreal areas mostly above tree line - hair moderately long and even - medium body size	Yellow-banded bumble bee - formerly common close to or within wooded areas and wetlands - hair short and even - medium body size
 <p>appositus</p>	 <p>griseocollis</p>	 <p>balteatus</p>	 <p>terricola</p>

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Cuckoo Bumble Bees	
Indiscriminate cuckoo bumble bee <ul style="list-style-type: none">- social parasite (of other <i>Bombus</i> spp); possibly in decline- found where host species occur, mountain meadows- hair medium- body size large (females are queens, not workers)	Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee <ul style="list-style-type: none">- social parasite of <i>B. occidentalis</i>; declining rapidly- found where host species occur, high elevations- hair short and even- body size large (females are queens, not workers)
 <p>insularis</p>	 <p>suckleyi</p>

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