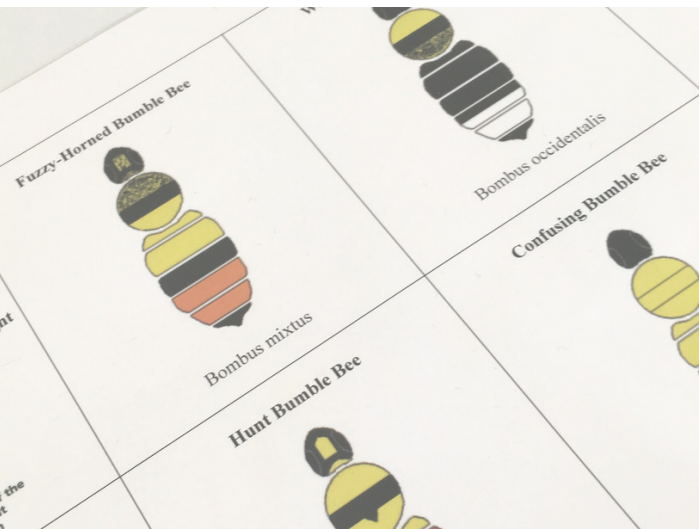


Did you Know?

Pollination is a pivotal system in our environment and pollinators are the crux of that system. Sure, we all recognize the importance of honeybees to pollination, but there are many other pollinators! There are more than 300 species of native bees in Canada, and 35 different species of bumblebee in Alberta alone.

We have pollinators to thank for many of the foods we eat. Pollination is behind the production of our favorite things - chocolate, coffee, apples, watermelon, and more! Did you know that pollinators face a number of different threats - from monoculture agriculture, habitat loss, and pesticides?



Pollinators in Alberta



Take Action!

- Keep a pesticide free garden - check out our guide to Bugs in Your Backyard for pesticide free tips!
- In the fall, make sure to leave a couple piles of leaves in your garden and under trees. Leaves provide important insulation for overwintering pollinators such as mason bees and moths.
- Plant pollinator friendly gardens with plants that flower throughout the growing season, providing a continual source of food. Planting native species and flowers that pollinators love (such as borage and bee balm) will keep pollinators happy!
- Build a bee habitat - take an 8.5 length of white PVC tubing, 2 inch diameter and 20 paper straws. Thread twine through the tubing and knot. Crimp one end of each straw and bundle the straws. Wrap the bundle in 2 layers of newspaper the same length as the straws and insert (crimped side first) into the PVC tube. You've made a mason bee home! Hang in a sunny location out of direct rain and wind.
- Check out the Alberta Council for Native Bees to learn more about citizen science project you can join!

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