



HSA Fuzzy Butts Bee Observations 2025



Native Herb Conservation Committee
The Herb Society of America, Inc.

Select a Day: **June 15** (or a day between May 15 and June 15)

Select a Time: **30 minutes, any time of day in a small flowering patch**

Your Name: _____

Address (City/State): _____

Unit/At Large: _____

WHO VISITED YOUR GARDEN TODAY?

Bees	Number of <u>Visits</u> per flower If you notice the same bee, count each visit.	Comments and Flowers visited
Honeybees		
Bumblebees— Fuzzy Butts		
Carpenter Bees—Shiny Butts		
OPTIONAL —count other bees observed if you can identify them:		
Wasps		
Yellow Jackets		
OTHERS:		

You may add any additional bees observed to the other side of the sheet. You may also add flowers visited and any comments. Thank you for sharing part of your day to help us keep up with the health of our bees!

MAIL OR EMAIL RESULTS TO: JUDY SEMROC rainefox51@gmail.com

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Bee Identification Hints



Honey bee, *Apis mellifera*



Great Black Wasp, *Spheg* spp.

Bees and wasps are closely related, and both belong to the insect order Hymenoptera. Honey bees have furry bodies, while wasp bodies are sleek and smooth with a **narrow waist**. Honey bees only sting once before dying, but wasps can sting multiple times.



Western Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera*

Western or European honey bees have a hairy, brownish thorax and black and dark orange bands on their relatively smooth abdomen. You will often see pollen sacs on their hind legs. Honey bees can grow to as large as bumblebees, but the coloring of the two is immediately recognizable.



Bumble bee, *Bombus* species

Bumble bees are large with round, fuzzy bodies and hairy legs. Their bodies have black and yellow or white bands or sometimes a rust-colored band—**fuzzy butts!** There are 250 species of bumble bees that have similar features and generally have slow and non-aggressive habits.



Leafcutter Bee, *Megachile*

Leafcutter bees have a smooth, striped upper abdomen that can be black and white or black and yellow, depending on the species. Leafcutter bees grow up to 0.35" long. They have slender bodies with hairs on the underside of their abdomen that carry pollen. This fellow is resting on a section of a leaf he cut out.



Carpenter Bee, *Xylocopa*

Carpenter bees are big black bees that look similar to bumble bees, though not quite so hairy—they have **shiny butts**! Most species of carpenter bees are black with shoulders of white or a yellowish tint. They may also have elongated wings. They dart about and are slower than honey bees.



Small Carpenter Bee, *Ceratina*

These little bees are almost hairless with dark shiny bodies. Some have green, blue, or red metallic coloring. They have somewhat square heads. Many have yellow markings somewhere on their bodies.



Steel Blue Mason Bee, *Osmia*

Many mason bees have shiny metallic bodies in shades of green, blue, red, or black. They also have an enlarged hind area when it's full of pollen—**big butts**!



Brown-Winged Striped Sweat Bee, *Halictidae*

Most have dark, metallic bodies and yellow markings on their faces, though the species vary widely. One feature to watch for is a curved vein on their wings.



Wool Carder Bee, *Anthidium*

Carder bees are large yellow and black bees with tufts of tiny spines on their legs and yellow or reddish markings on the undersides and sides of their abdomens. The aggressive males will fly at your face in the manner of Carpenter Bees. The females busily gather trichomes from plants such as lamb's ears (*Stachys byzantina*) to line their nest cavities.



Abrupt Digger Bee, *Anthophora abrupta*

They have an overall fuzzy body, with the color of the thorax lighter. Although they have stingers, they rarely sting humans. They are pollinators for plants such as rhododendrons, irises, roses, persimmons.



Squash Bee, *Peponapis* and *Xenoglossa*

Squash bees have a stout body like bumble bees. Some have black bodies with yellow bands, others have fuzzy shoulders. This is a species that is often active at night. They pollinate squashes including zucchini and butternut, making the service of honey bees less necessary.



Yellowjacket, *Vespula* species

The dreaded yellowjackets, who torment picnickers, are up to to 5/8 of an inch long, with queens 25% longer. Their bodies have yellow and black bands with marking distinctive to each species. They fold their wings along their sides unless flying. Yellowjackets do not have barbed stingers like the honey bee, so they can sting multiple times. Aggressive and pesky, but they do assist with pollination, if inadvertently.

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