

Bumble Bees

Genus: *Bombus*



Here we see a pollen basket, also called a corbicula. This is how bumble bees and honey bees carry pollen.

Field Notes:

Bumble bees belong to the genus **Bombus** (pronounced BOM-bus). They are important pollinators of many wild and agricultural plants (plants grown by farmers). Some of the crops they pollinate include cranberries and other berries, apples, tomatoes, peppers and squash. They are large and fuzzy bees, and their bodies are most often colored with a mixture of black, yellow, orange, brown or white. In Oregon they are important pollinators of red clover. Oregon is one of the largest growers of clover seed in the world. Farmers buy the seed to grow clover plants, which are fed to cows and other livestock (animals raised on a farm) that give us milk and meat.



Next time you eat some cheese, thank a bumble bee!