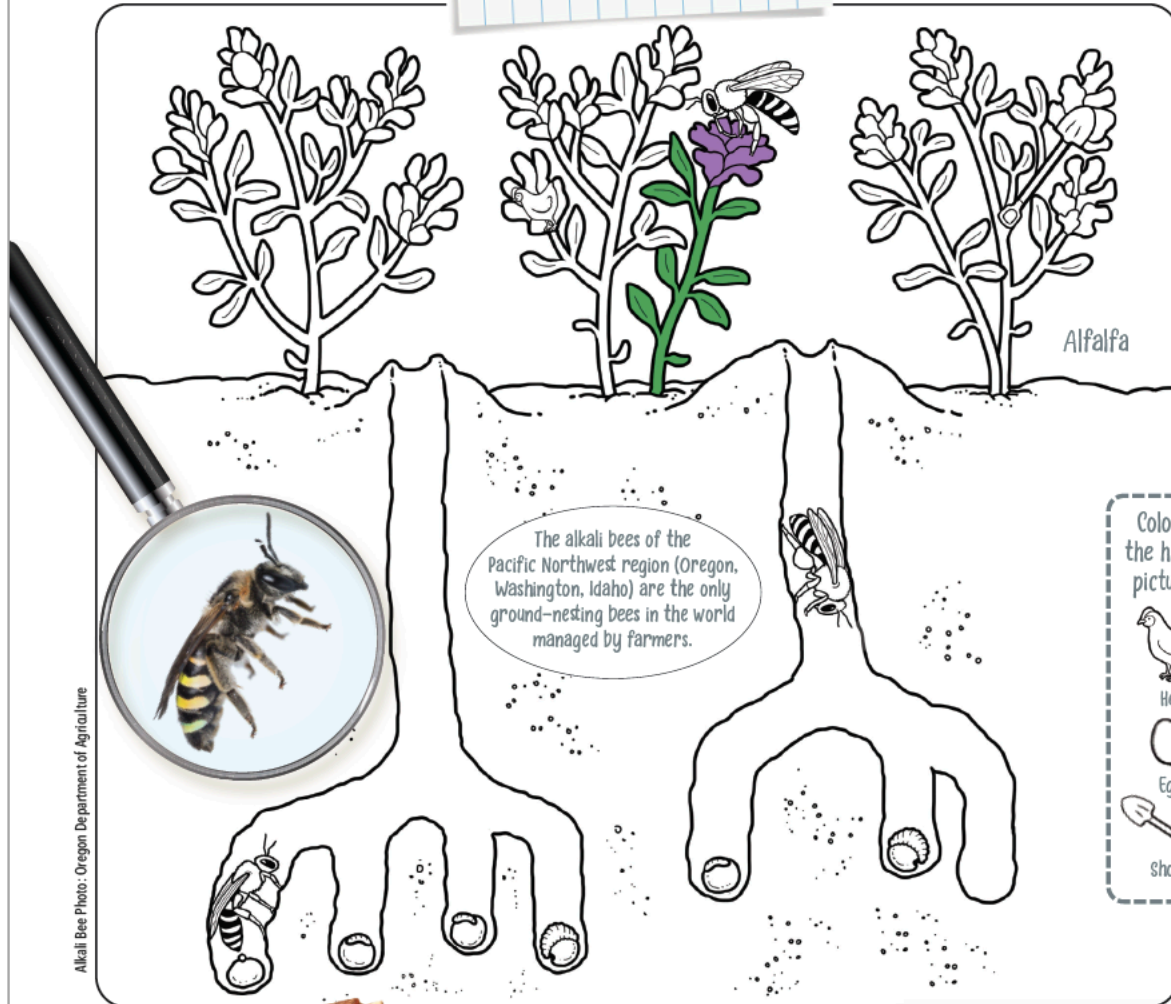




Solitary Bees
Alkali Bees
Genus: Nomia
 (pronounced NO-mi-a)



Alkali Bee
 12 to 13 mm in length



Alkali Bee Photo: Oregon Department of Agriculture

Field Notes:

Alkali bees, like leafcutter bees, pollinate alfalfa flowers to make alfalfa seed. From the seed, farmers grow hay to feed many different types of animals. Even chickens like alfalfa hay! Alkali bees nest in the ground and are very picky; in the wild they love salty, moist and crumbly soil. Some farmers have figured out how to create these same conditions in the soil on their farms. At these sites, thousands of females build nests side-by-side, packing their nests with alfalfa pollen. After the females lay an egg, the hungry alkali bee larvae consume the pollen and complete their development underground.

What specific physical trait(s) make alkali bees unique?

A trait of this bee is that it makes its nest in the ground.
 A synonym for ground is:
