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Long Horns

## Solitary Bees

# Long-Horned Bees



Long-Horned Bee  
9 to 15 mm in length



**Genus: *Melissodes***  
(pronounced mel-eh-SOH-dees)

Sunflowers

Photo by Hilary Kearney

Find the hidden pictures!



Clarkia



Sunflower Seeds



Primrose

There are many native plants in the sunflower family including goldenrod, rabbitbrush and gumweed.

This is a male long-horned bee (you can tell because of the long antennae). Females have shorter antennae.

Long-horned bee on a sunflower

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## Field Notes:

**Long-horned bees** are beautiful medium-sized ground-nesting bees that are very fuzzy. They are dark with yellow, black or white hairs. Males have long antennae (horns) like the bee shown. Females have large, brush-like hairs (scopa) on their back legs that they use to carry pollen.

Bees in the genus *Melissodes* like to visit plants in the sunflower family the most. Some species also visit the native plants primrose and clarkia. Planting sunflowers in your community, and watching the blooms, is the best way to find these bees in Oregon.

Which animal do you think could cohabitate with (live in a habitat with) a long-horned bee? Why?



A trait of this bee is that they are beautiful.  
Name a synonym and antonym for beautiful: