

Common Bees of Oregon

Field Guide



Oregon State University
Extension Service



Squash Bee

11 to 14 mm in length

Medium-sized, fuzzy bees that feed only on the pollen of squash plants

Squash blossom and butternut squash



Bumble Bee

11 to 23 mm in length

They are large and fuzzy bees, and their bodies are most often colored with a mixture of black, yellow, orange, brown or white hairs.

Clover and blueberries



Long-Horned Bee

9 to 15 mm in length

Beautiful, medium-sized, and fuzzy, with dark bodies covered in yellow, black, or white hairs. Prefer visiting sunflower family plants and various native plants

Sunflower and sunflower seeds



Sunflower



Cuckoo Bee

8 to 10 mm in length

Cuckoo bees lay their eggs in other birds' nests. Some description of what a Cuckoo bee looks like.

Cuckoo bees do not pollinate flowers



Mason Bee:

6 to 12 mm in length

Small to medium-sized and often brightly colored in metallic blues, greens, or black. Pollinators of almonds, apples, blueberries, raspberries, cherries, and many wild plants

Cherry blossoms and cherries



Leafcutter Bee:

6 to 22 mm in length

Darkly colored, small to medium-sized bees. Pollinators of alfalfa and many wild plants.

Squash blossoms and cheese



Green Metallic Sweat Bee

7 to 12 mm in length

Medium-sized and have a bright metallic green color. Pollinators of many plants as well as wildflowers.

Cilantro



Alkali Bee

12 to 13 mm in length

Alkali bees nest in the ground. Need to add something about what they look like, as a way to identify them.

Alkali bees pollinate alfalfa plants and help make alfalfa seeds for hay



Woolly sunflower (Oregon sunshine), Oregon native
Take a closer look: The word sunflower comes from the Greek words for sun (helios) and flower (anthos). But a sunflower is not just one flower! The outer flowers that look like petals are called ray flowers and do not reproduce. The head of the sunflower is made up of many small disc flowers which are tubes with five petals inside them. Each disc flower turns into a seed that we can eat!