

COMMON EASTERN BUMBLE BEE

Bombus impatiens

Bug of the Month



Buzz, buzz! This bumble bee species, *Bombus impatiens*, is also known as the Common Eastern Bumble bee. These bumbles are known for their short uniform hair, medium-sized head, rectangular body, and characteristic yellow and black coloration. *Bombus impatiens* is the most commonly encountered bumblebee in Eastern North America, due to their ability to adapt to a variety of habitats and environmental conditions. As important and resilient pollinators, *B. impatiens* colonies are increasingly utilized for pollination in greenhouses across

the U.S. and Canada, leading to the establishment of wild populations outside their native range.

Bumble bees divide their labor within the colony: The queen produces offspring, sterile female workers care for larvae or forage for resources, and male drones mate with new queens. *Bombus impatiens* colonies nest underground, with entry tunnels that range from 18 inches to 9 feet deep, and can grow to several hundred individuals by the fall! The fuzziness of bumble bees play an important role in pollen collection

and distribution, due to specialized hairs that trap pollen and transport it among flowers and back to their colony. You can support *B. impatiens* and other bumble bee species by providing them with native flowering plants rich in pollen and nectar. Get planting today! For additional inspiration, check out the [Center for Pollinator Research's](#) instructions for [certifying your pollinator garden](#) in Pennsylvania.

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July 2021



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