

Common Bumble Bees of Alberta

Bombus borealis

Two of the most common patterns, though there can be subtle variation. Found on queens and workers.



Common Name: Northern Amber
 Season: June to August
 Worker Peak: Summer
 Range: Calgary to Edmonton
 Nest Location: Underground

Bombus insularis

Two of the most common patterns, though significant variation is common. Cuckoo species do not have workers bees or pollen carrying structures on legs.



Common Name: Indiscriminate Cuckoo
 Season: May to September
 Worker Peak: None
 Range: Calgary to Edmonton
 Nest Location: Cuckoo Bee

Bombus huntii

Common Name: Hunt
 Season: April to October
 Worker Peak: Summer
 Range: Lethbridge to Calgary
 Nest Location: Underground



Bombus nevadensis

Two of the most common patterns, though there can be subtle variation. Found on queens and workers.



Common Name: Nevada
 Season: May to August
 Worker Peak: Early Summer
 Range: Lethbridge to Calgary
 Nest Location: Underground

Bombus occidentalis

Two of the most common patterns, though a fair bit of variation exists. Pattern on the right found on workers only.



Common Name: Western
 Season: April to October
 Worker Peak: Summer
 Range: Lethbridge to Calgary
 Nest Location: Underground

Bombus rufocinctus

Two of the most common patterns found on workers and queens. There can be significant variation and these bees are often confused with other species.



Common Name: Red-Belted
 Season: June to August
 Worker Peak: Late Summer
 Range: Lethbridge to Edmonton
 Nest Location: Surface

Bombus ternarius

Almost no variation from these two patterns. Pattern on the right found on workers only.



Common Name: Tri-colored
 Season: April to October
 Worker Peak: Late Summer
 Range: Calgary to Edmonton
 Nest Location: Underground

Bombus vagans

Common Name: Half-Black
 Season: June to September
 Worker Peak: Summer
 Range: Edmonton
 Nest Location: Underground

