

## Bumble Bee vs. Carpenter Bee vs. Honey Bee Identification Guide

**This survey is only interested in Bumble bees and Carpenter bees.** “Bumble bee” refers to the genus *Bombus*, while Carpenter bees are members of the genus “*Xylocopa*”. There is only one common species of carpenter bee in the Eastern US known as *Xylocopa virginica*.

***Bombus* sp. (Bumble bees):** Bumble bees are very round and fuzzy, and generally larger bees. They are most easily distinguished from carpenter bees by their fuzzy abdomens. Bumble bees vary in their coloration between species, but they are always covered in hair.



© daviddodd (cc) BY-NC

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86670704>



© jennifer4 (cc) BY

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/8754161>

***Xylocopa virginica* (Eastern Carpenter Bee):** Carpenter bees look a lot like bumble bees but are identifiable by their large, shiny, hairless, black abdomen (butt). Shiny heinie = Carpenter Bee! Fuzzy fanny = Bumble Bee! Carpenter bees are generally bigger than bumbles as well.



© laurasea (cc) BY-NC

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86557457>

© kristin0107 (cc) BY-NC

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86557457>

***Apis mellifera* aka Western Honeybee:** Honeybees are NOT a part of this survey, so **DO NOT COUNT these bees!** Honeybees look quite different from bumble bees and carpenter bees because honeybees are much thinner and have more stripes on the abdomen. They don't have the characteristic black and yellow colors that bumbles and carpenters have, as their stripes are shades of orange and dark brown.



© Ivan Pancic   
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86709167>

© emendela   
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/86742854>

License for all photos: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/legalcode>