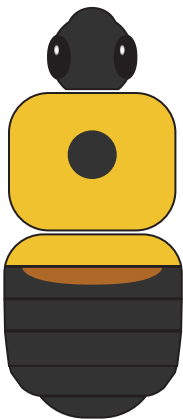


**B. griseocollis**

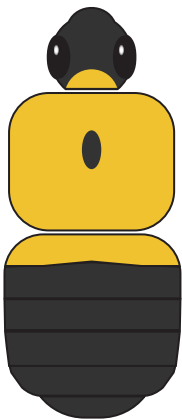
brown-belted



Relatively large body. Short pile. T2 may range in color from yellow to brown.

**B. impatiens**

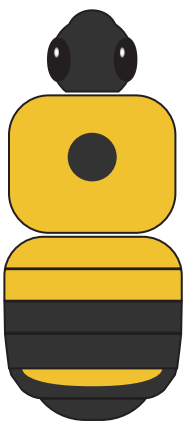
common eastern



Very common. Neat, short pile with a crisp transition to black. Slight indent to T1.

**B. sandersoni**

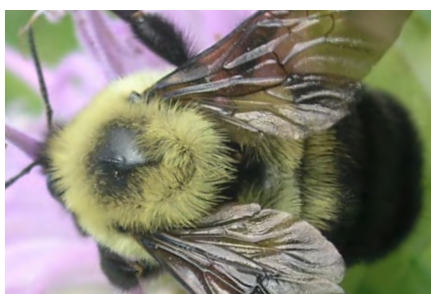
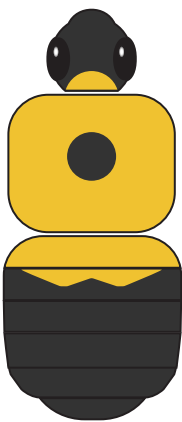
Sanderson's



Uncommon. Shaggy. Darker than *B. vagans*. Thin pile on thorax. Possible yellow on T5.

**B. bimaculatus**

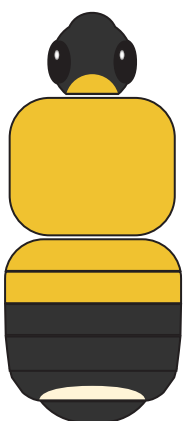
two-spotted



Very common. Pile is often thin on the dorsal thorax. Look for the "B" on T2.

**B. perplexus**

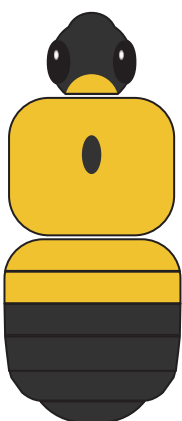
confusing



Darker than *B. vagans* with pile the color of egg yolk. Furrier than *B. sandersoni*.

**B. vagans**

half black

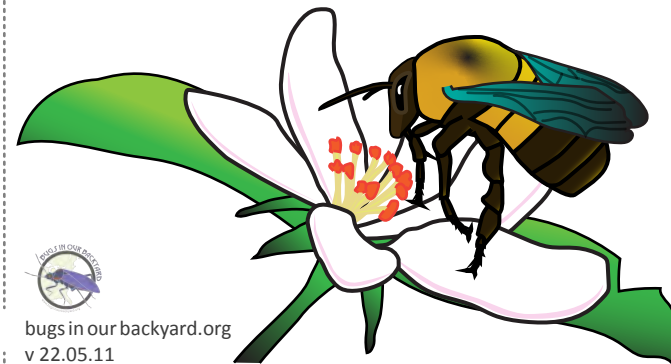


Common near forests. May be mistaken for other "two-stripe" bumble bees.

# BUMBLE BEES

## A GUIDE TO SPECIES

### OF NORTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA



bugs in our backyard.org  
v 22.05.11

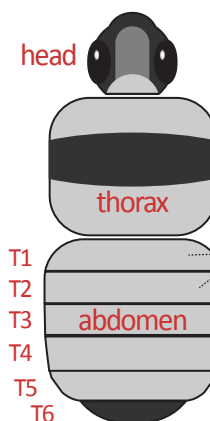
North America is home to 46 species of bumble bees (genus *Bombus*). About half of these can be found east of the Rocky Mountains. Here is a quick guide to distinguishing common species.

We focus on **workers** here. **Queens** tend to look similar but larger. **Males** of most species are roughly similar to females, but furrer, with larger eyes and more yellow coloration, especially on the face. Males have no pollen baskets on the hind legs.

While there is variation within species, most species can be distinguished by color patterns across the body. Their fur is called **pile**. Abdominal segments are called **terga**.

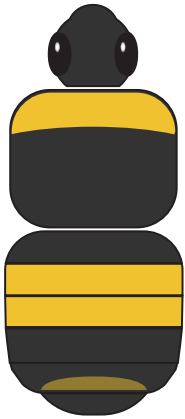
This guide does not cover cuckoo bumblebees, which usurp nests built by queens of other species.

For helpful tips on identification visit, [bugsinourbackyard.org](http://bugsinourbackyard.org)  
Visit [bumblebeewatch.org](http://bumblebeewatch.org) for authoritative IDs.



**B. terricola**

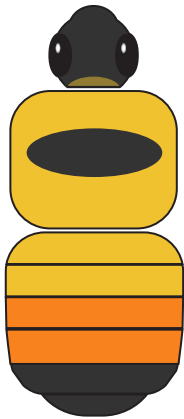
yellow-banded



Once common, now rare. Large with even, bright pile. Fringe of posterior yellow.

**B. rufocinctus**

red-belted (red form)



More common in northern and coastal areas. Red form found mostly in Canada.

**B. ternarius**

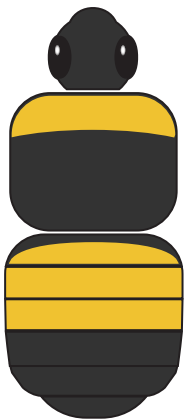
tri-colored



Common on coasts and mountains. Small body. "V" on thorax. Yellow-red-yellow.

**B. pensylvanicus**

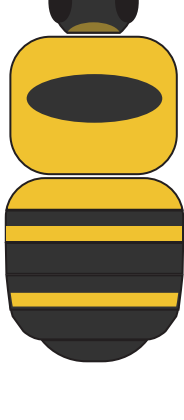
American



More common in southern states. No yellow fringe on posterior abdomen.

**B. rufocinctus**

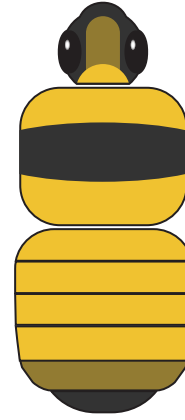
red-belted (black form)



Black form found in Maine. Pile appears thin and pale, almost white on abdomen.

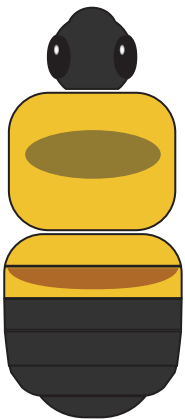
**B. borealis**

northern amber



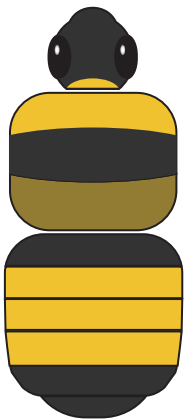
Large. Rich gold color. Females with yellow face. Black sides. T5 may be yellow or black.

**B. affinis** **endangered** rusty-patched



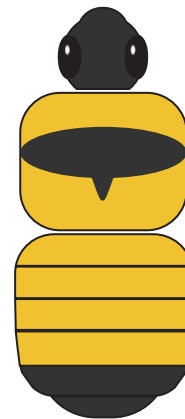
Varies in the extent of the red/brown patch. If sighted, report it to state agencies!

**B. auricomus** black-and-gold



May be limited to Canada. May or may not have yellow on posterior thorax.

**B. fervidus** northern yellow



Less common than *B. borealis*. Brighter yellow. More black on head and tail. Small "V".