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# Bombus terricola

## Yellow-banded Bumble Bee

*Bombus terricola* populations have declined across most of its eastern North American range. Over the last 25 years, the species has become uncommon throughout Minnesota.

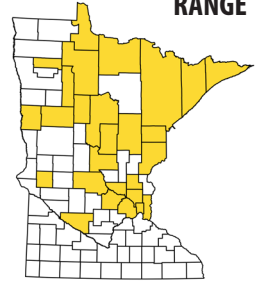
### CONSERVATION STATUS

**S2 imperiled**

### NEST

**belowground**  
rodent/mammal burrows  
**on the ground**  
under logs, in long grass

### RANGE



## CHARACTERISTICS

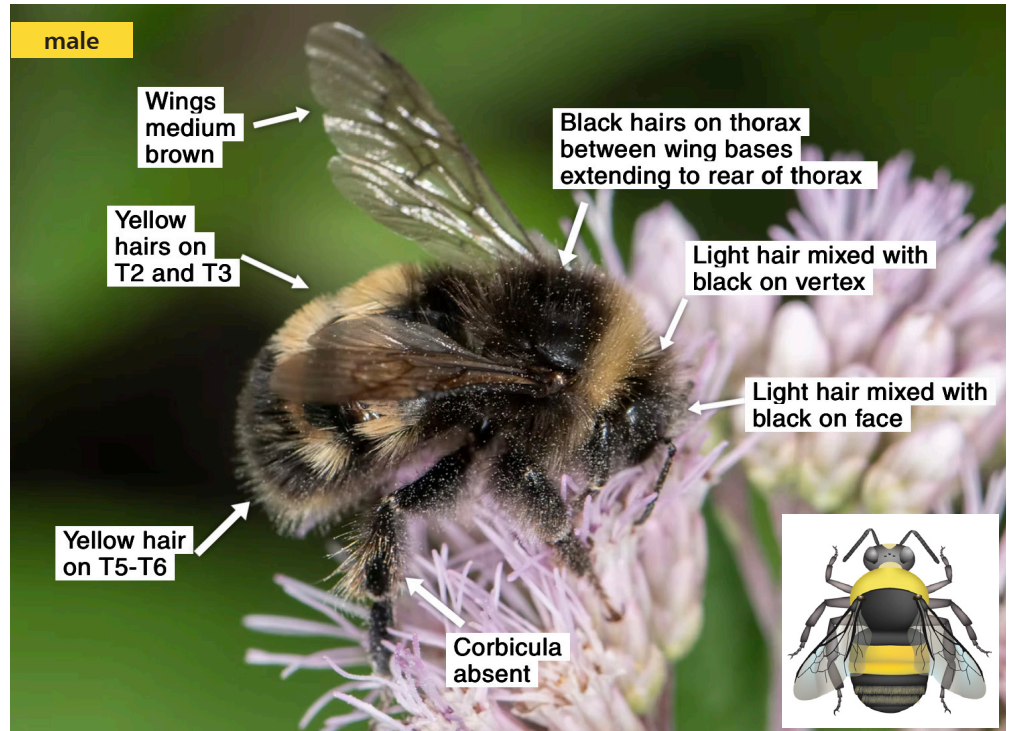
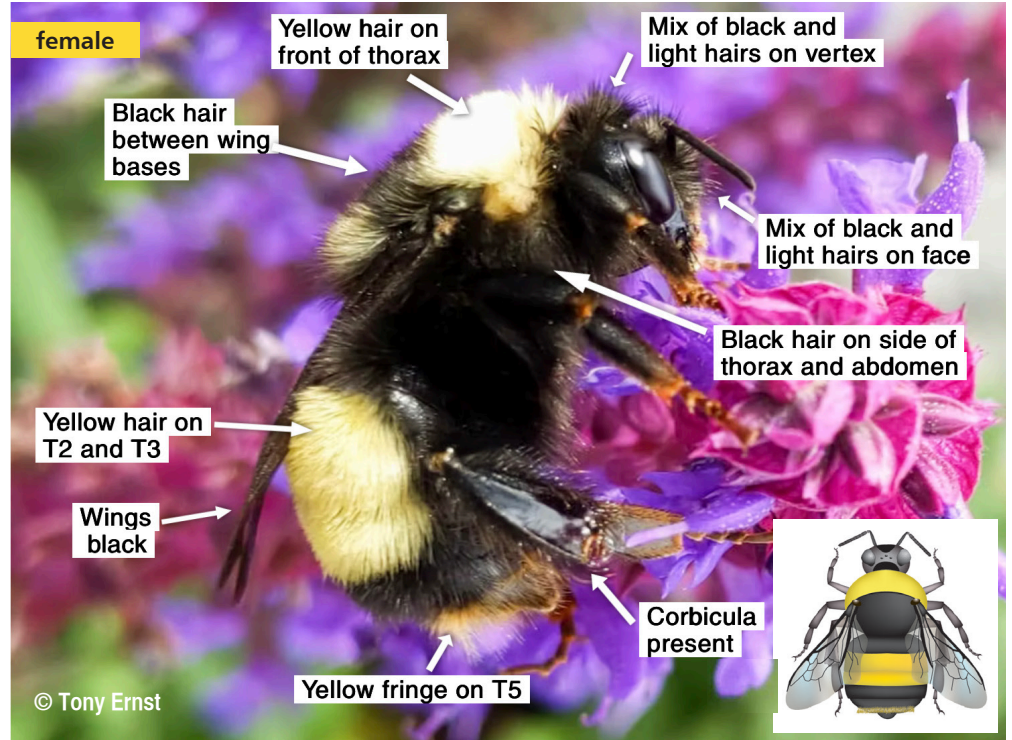
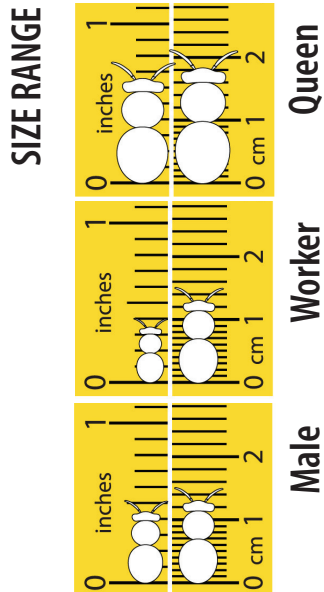
*Bombus terricola* has a stout, round form. Females have short even hair, males long hair.

**HEAD** Females have dark hairs on the vertex (back of the head or neck) and face, occasionally with a mixture of light hairs; males have light and dark hairs on the vertex and face.

**THORAX** The thorax has extensive areas of black hair, between and below the wing bases, and extending to the rear of the thorax.

**ABDOMEN** The hairs are black on T1, yellow on T2 and T3, black on T4-T6 (females) or T4-T7 (males). Females have a fringe of light hairs on T5, males on T6.

**SIMILAR SPECIES** *B. auricomus* and *B. pensylvanicus* resemble *B. terricola* but are usually larger than *B. terricola* and lack the fringe of light hairs on T5.



Photos: Tony Ernst (*Bombus terricola* female), Heather Holm

Bumble bee illustrations: Elaine Evans/Xerces Society



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# *Bombus terricola* Yellow-banded Bumble Bee

## Plant Associations

*Bombus terricola* is a short-tongued bumble bee species that often robs nectar from flowers with long corollas such as *Monarda* and *Dicentra*. In addition, this bumble bee frequently visits flowering plants in the family Asteraceae offering shallow nectaries.

ACTIVITY	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
queens		nest duration					
workers							
males							
gynes							



*Acer rubrum*



*Vaccinium*



*Asclepias tuberosa*



*Apocynum androsaemifolium*

	SPRING	
APRIL	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
	<i>Salix</i>	Willows
	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's Breeches
	<i>Vaccinium</i>	Blueberry, Cranberry
MAY	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry
	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Wild Lupine
	EARLY TO MID-SUMMER	
JUNE	<i>Lonicera canadensis</i>	Fly Honeysuckle
	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed
	<i>Rosa blanda</i>	Smooth Wild Rose
	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Anise Hyssop
	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	Spreading Dogbane
	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot
	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed
	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Bush Honeysuckle
	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	White Meadowsweet
	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly Everlasting
	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Virginia Mountain Mint
	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root
JULY	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	False Sunflower
	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain
	LATE SUMMER-AUTUMN	
AUGUST	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush
	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common Boneset
	<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>	Sweet Joe Pye Weed
	<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	Pasture Thistle
	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Prairie Blazing Star
OCTOBER	<i>Helianthus</i>	Sunflowers
	<i>Solidago, Euthamia</i>	Goldenrods
	<i>Symphotrichum</i>	Asters



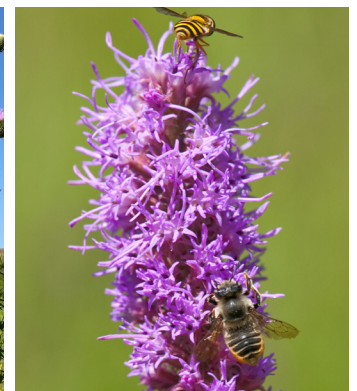
*Anaphalis margaritacea*



*Spiraea tomentosa*



*Cirsium discolor*



*Liatris pycnostachya*

Photos: Heather Holm