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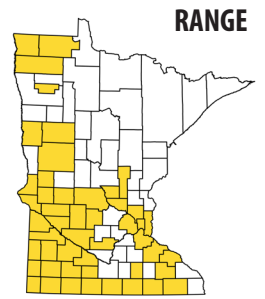
Bombus pensylvanicus American Bumble Bee

Bombus pensylvanicus is common in some areas of southwestern Minnesota and uncommon to rare in other parts of its range. Females closely resemble *B. auricomus* females; males resemble *B. borealis* and *B. fervidus* males.

CONSERVATION STATUS

S3 imperiled

NEST
belowground
rodent/mammal burrows
on the ground
in prairies/long grass



CHARACTERISTICS

SIMILAR SPECIES *Bombus pensylvanicus* females closely resemble *B. auricomus* females. *B. pensylvanicus* males strongly resemble *B. fervidus* and *B. borealis* and are difficult to tell apart in the field.

HEAD Females: Black hairs on the vertex (back of the head or "neck") and face for *B. pensylvanicus* versus yellow hairs on the vertex and black hairs on the face for *B. auricomus*.

Males: Black hairs on the vertex and face.

THORAX Females: Black hairs between the wing bases and on the rear of the thorax for *B. pensylvanicus* versus a broad black band between the wing bases and yellow hairs on the rear of the thorax for *B. auricomus*.

Males: Yellow hairs with a black band between the wings; rear of the thorax with all yellow or a mix of yellow and black hairs.

ABDOMEN Females: Yellow hairs on at least the apical half of the first tergite (T1) for *B. pensylvanicus* versus no yellow or rarely yellow hairs on T1 for *B. auricomus*.

Males: Yellow hairs on at least T1-T4, and often T5 mixed with black hairs. T6 has either yellow or black hairs, and T7 often with orange hairs.

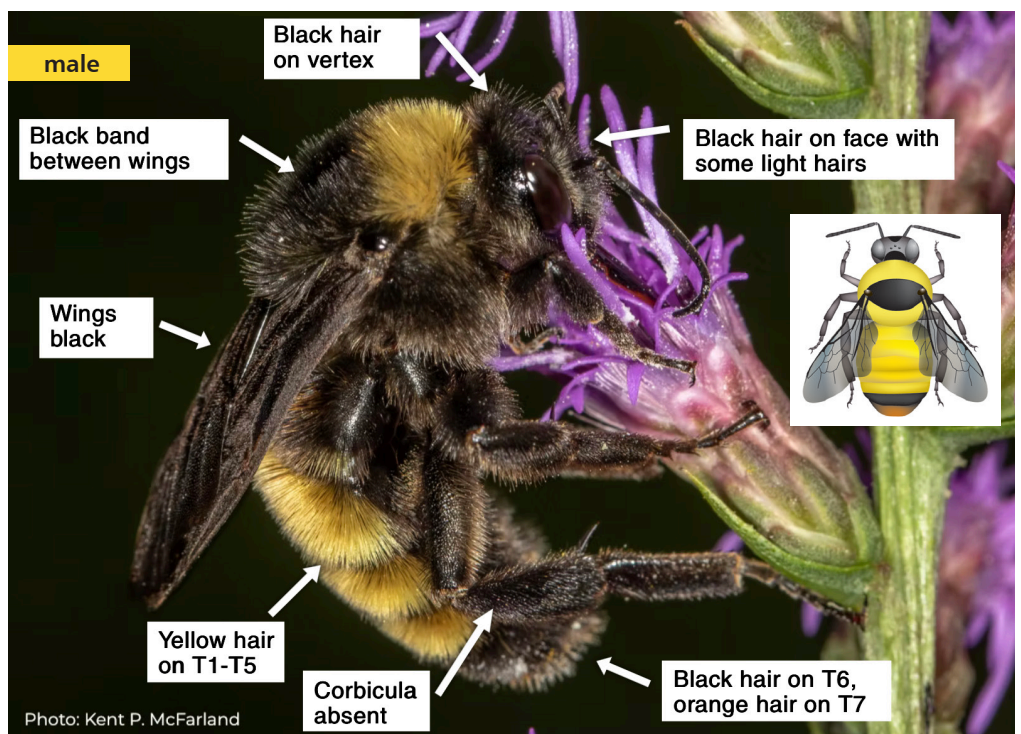
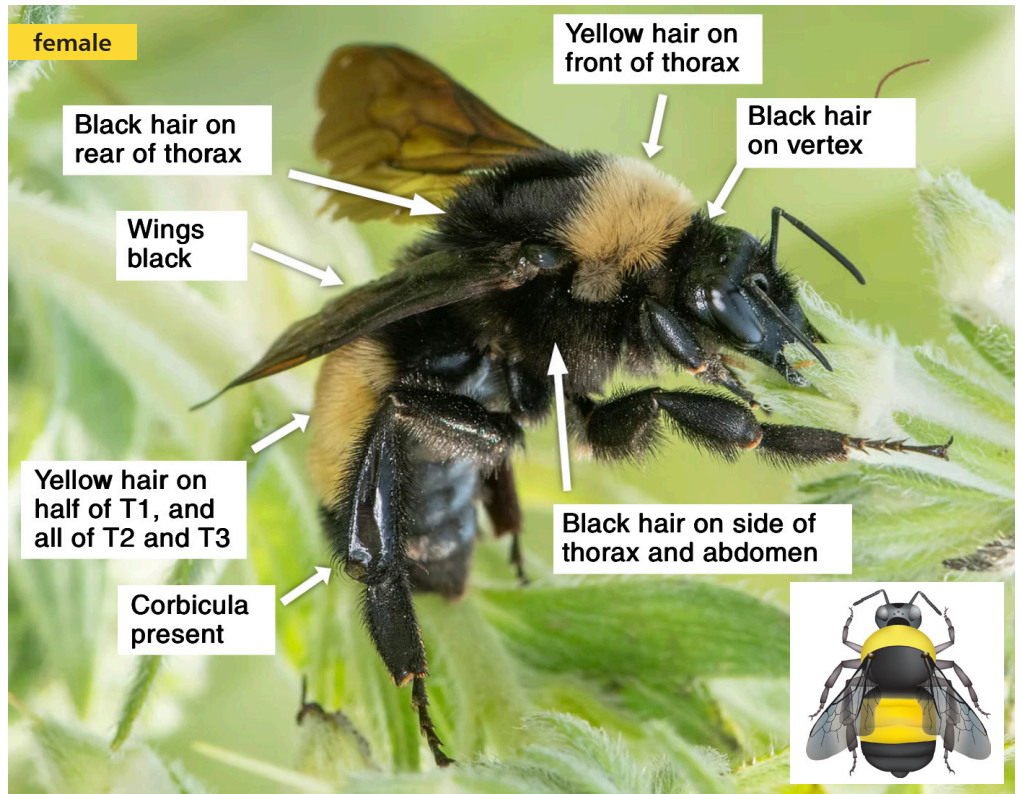


Photo: Kent P. McFarland

Photos: Heather Holm, Kent. P. McFarland (*B. pensylvanicus* male)

Bumble bee illustrations: Elaine Evans/Xerces Society

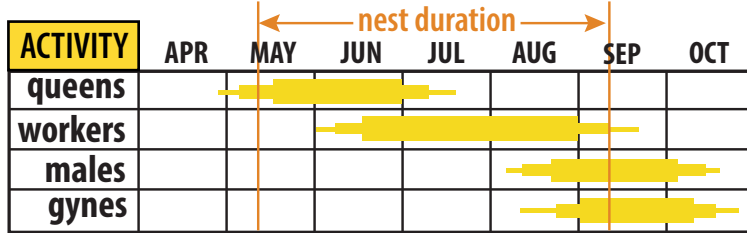


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Plant Associations

SIZE RANGE



Bombus pensylvanicus is a long-tongued bumble bee that frequently visits complexly-shaped grassland plants such as *Baptisia*, *Onosmodium*, and *Astragalus*.



Pedicularis canadensis



Lithospermum canescens

	MAY	
	JUNE	
	JULY	
	AUGUST	
	OCTOBER	
SPRING		
<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>	Wood Betony	
<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>	Hoary Puccoon	
<i>Comandra umbellata</i>	Eastern Toadflax	
<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i>	Large-flowered Beardtongue	
EARLY TO MID-SUMMER		
<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>	Canada Milkvetch	
<i>Baptisia lactea</i>	White Wild Indigo	
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple Prairie Clover	
<i>Onosmodium bejariense</i>	False Gromwell	
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Anise Hyssop	
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	Showy Tick-trefoil	
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary Vervain	
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Dotted Horsemint	
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Virginia Mountain Mint	
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	
<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	American Germander	
LATE SUMMER-AUTUMN		
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough Blazing Star	
<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	Common Ironweed	
<i>Helianthus</i>	Sunflowers	
<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	Pasture Thistle	
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Blue Lobelia	
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Bottle Gentian	
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White Turtlehead	
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient Plant	
<i>Solidago, Euthamia</i>	Goldenrods	
<i>Symphotrichum</i>	Asters	



Baptisia lactea



Onosmodium bejariense



Agastache foeniculum



Cirsium discolor



Lobelia siphilitica



Chelone glabra