

YELLOW-BANDED BUMBLE BEE

Bombus terricola

Physical characteristics



The upper side of the abdomen is black, except for a wide band of golden yellow hairs. Due to its short tongue, this species requires shallow flowers to gather nectar.



Yellow-banded bumble bee markings

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Diet



The yellow-banded bumble bee feeds on the pollen and nectar of several flowering plant species, including willows, raspberry bushes, and clover. It must have access to flowers that bloom at different times of the year to ensure adequate food supply throughout its active season.

Habitat



This bumble bee is found in open habitats, including meadows; coniferous, deciduous, or mixed woodlands; prairie grasslands; riparian zones; and agricultural areas. The availability of food resources is the main criterion for habitat selection.



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Periods of vulnerability



- The yellow-banded bumble bee is active from April to September.
- Come spring, queens begin to look for a place to nest.
- In late summer (August/September), reproductive males and females leave their nests to find mates.
- Mated females disperse to find an overwintering site. Males and workers die once the cold weather sets in, as do the queens of the previous summer.

Threats



- Rising mortality rates due to the use of pesticides and the transmission and spread of pathogens.
- Negative impacts due to climate change and severe weather phenomena.
- Reduced food sources due to intensive agriculture.
- Habitat fragmentation due to urban and suburban development.

Sustainable practices



- Reduce the use of pesticides and favour those with low environmental impact.
- Create or expand natural riparian buffers so that native herbaceous plants can provide perennial floral resources.
- Enhance riparian buffers by planting species that bloom in early spring, such as sow thistle, buckwheat, yellow and white sweetclover, sunflowers, clover, and flowering fruit trees.
- Leave wooded areas undisturbed so that favourable elements such as litter and dead trees can be naturally maintained.
- Mitigate stress factors through ecological management of commercial bumble bee and honey bee populations to minimize pathogen transmission and competition.

- As of 2023, species of **special concern** listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*
- Management Plan for the Yellow-Banded Bumble Bee (*Bombus terricola*) in Canada:
www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/management-plans/yellow-banded-bumble-bee-proposed-2022.html

Sources

Wildlife Preservation Canada. (n.d.). "Yellow-Banded Bumble Bee." wildlifepreservation.ca/species/yellow-banded-bumblebee/

Environment and Climate Change Canada. (2022). "Management Plan for the Yellow-Banded Bumble Bee (*Bombus terricola*) in Canada [Proposed]." *Species at Risk Act* Management Plan Series. Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ottawa. iv + 46 pp.

Expert review: Marianne Gagnon, Patricia Désilets, Sylvain Giguère, Amélie Morin

