

# CITIZEN SCIENCE MONITORING: MARITIME NORTHWEST

## Bee Morphogroups Cheat Sheet

### HONEY BEES

(Figure 1)

<p><b>SIZE RANGE:</b> 12–15 mm/0.47–0.59"</p> <p><b>COLORS:</b> </p> <p><b>KEY CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Torpedo-shaped; fuzzy head and thorax; tri-tone striped abdomen</li> <li>→ Moist pollen on hind legs</li> </ul>		
--	--	--

### BUMBLE BEES

(Figure 2)

<p><b>SIZE RANGE:</b> 8–(15–)25 mm/0.31–(0.59–)0.98"</p> <p><b>COLORS:</b> </p> <p><b>KEY CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Robust; fuzzy all over, markings vary by species</li> <li>→ Females carry moist pollen on hind legs</li> <li>→ Workers &amp; males are smaller than queens</li> </ul>		
---	--	--

### CHAP LEG BEES

(Figure 3)

<p><b>SIZE RANGE:</b> 8–20 mm/0.31–0.79"</p> <p><b>COLORS:</b> </p> <p><b>KEY CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Robust; velvety all over; pale bands on abdomen</li> <li>→ Females carry dry pollen on hind legs</li> <li>→ Males are less hairy, often have longer antennae</li> </ul>		
---	--	--

### MEDIUM DARK BEES

(Figure 4)

<p><b>SIZE RANGE:</b> 7–18 mm/0.28–0.71"</p> <p><b>COLORS:</b> </p> <p><b>KEY CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Narrow-robust; fuzzy head &amp; thorax; some species have pale stripes on abdomen</li> <li>→ Females carry dry pollen on hind legs and sometimes under thorax arm pits</li> <li>→ Some species nest in large aggregations in the ground</li> <li>→ May be found inside or at base of flowers; move <u>very</u> fast</li> </ul>		
--	--	--

### METALLIC GREEN BEES

(Figure 5)

<p><b>SIZE RANGE:</b> 9–11 mm/0.35–0.43"</p> <p><b>COLORS:</b> </p> <p><b>KEY CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Narrow; fuzzy head &amp; thorax; striped abdomen</li> <li>→ Females carry dry pollen on hind legs</li> <li>→ Coloration varies—may green all over, or have a light-and-dark striped abdomen</li> </ul>		
--	--	--

### TINY DARK BEES

(Figure 6)

<p><b>SIZE RANGE:</b> 4–8 mm/0.16–0.31"</p> <p><b>COLORS:</b> </p> <p><b>KEY CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Narrow; sparse hair; faint or no abdominal stripes</li> <li>→ Dry pollen on hind legs or in stomach</li> <li>→ May have yellow or white markings on face, often metallic green or blue-green in bright light (also black, brown, or pale gold)</li> </ul>	<p>4–7 mm / 0.16–0.28"    5 mm / 0.2"    6–8 mm / 0.24–0.31"</p>	
--	--	--

**STRIPED HAIRY BELLY BEES**

(Figure 7)

<p><b>SIZE RANGE:</b> 8–12 mm/0.31–0.47"</p> <p><b>COLORS:</b> </p> <p><b>KEY CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Very robust; fuzzy all over, pale hair stripes on abdomen</li> <li>→ Dry pollen on belly (under abdomen)</li> <li>→ When visiting flowers, females bees often elevate abdomen</li> </ul>		
--	--	--

**METALLIC HAIRY BELLY BEES**

(Figure 8)

<p><b>SIZE RANGE:</b> 8–12 mm/0.31–0.47"</p> <p><b>COLORS:</b> </p> <p><b>KEY CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Robust; fuzzy all over, no stripes on abdomen</li> <li>→ Dry pollen on belly</li> <li>→ Among the first bees seen in early spring</li> </ul>		
--	--	--

**CUCKOO BEES**

(Figure 9)

<p><b>SIZE RANGE:</b> 8–12 mm/0.31–0.47"</p> <p><b>COLORS:</b> </p> <p><b>KEY CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Small–large, very narrow; usually not hairy; wasp-like stripes</li> <li>→ Lack pollen-carrying structures—very narrow legs</li> <li>→ Look similar to wasps; often seen flying low to the ground or on flowers</li> </ul>		
---	--	--


**Figure 10: Bee Groups Size & Color Cheat Sheet\***

**SMALL → LARGE**

<p>(~4 mm) Tiny dark bee</p>	<p>(6–8 mm) Tiny dark bee</p>	<p>Metallic hairy belly bee</p>	<p>Green sweat bee</p>	<p>Metallic hairy belly bee</p> <p><b>GREEN/ BLUE-GREEN</b></p>	
<p>(~5 mm) Tiny dark bee</p>	<p>Cuckoo bee</p>	<p>Chap leg bee</p>	<p>Bumble bee</p>	<p>Medium dark bee</p>	<p>Bumble bee</p> <p><b>MOSTLY SOLID, FAINT STRIPES</b></p>
<p>Chap leg bee</p>	<p>Cuckoo bee</p>	<p>Bumble bee</p>	<p>Honey bee</p>	<p>Chap leg bee</p>	<p>Bumble bee</p> <p><b>YELLOW/AMBER &amp; DARK STRIPES</b></p>
<p>Medium dark bee</p>	<p>Striped hairy belly bee</p>	<p>Medium dark bee</p> <p><b>BROWN/BLACK &amp; LIGHT STRIPES</b></p>			

\*Please note that these illustrations are based off of regional averages—individual bees or local populations may vary.

CREDITS: Photographs by David Cappaert (Figure 1); Rollin Coville (Figures 2, 3, 5, 6, 7); Jacy Lucier (Figures 4, 9), and The Xerces Society/Mace Vaughan (Figure 8). Bee group icons created by The Xerces Society/Sara Morris. See Additional Acknowledgments on page 58 in the *Citizen Science Monitoring Guide: Maritime Northwest Bees & Butterflies* for more details.



**HOME PRINT SCALE CHECK**  
This bar should be **25.4 mm/ 1" long** at 100% scale. If it is not, check your printer's scale settings.

