YELLOW-BANDED BUMBLE BEE

BOMBUS TERRICOLA

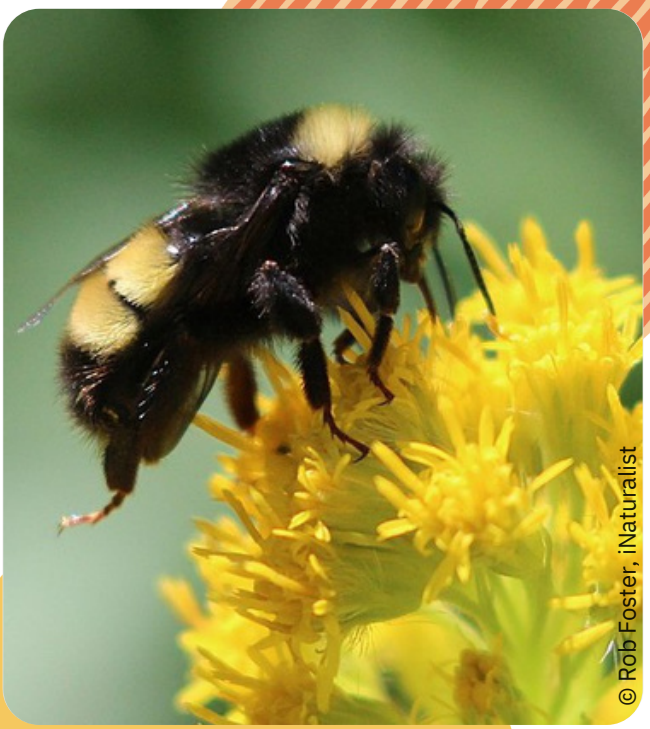
The bumble bee that works for you

Main benefits for agriculture

Efficient: The yellow-banded bumble bee can visit up to 600 flowers per hour and travel up to 10 km from its burrow, making it a highly efficient pollinator for many crops. It is capable of visiting up to 432,000 flowers in the course of one summer in Quebec.

Adaptable: Yellow-banded bumble bees pollinate efficiently in cold or wet weather. Unlike honey bees, they can begin foraging early in the morning and continue into the evening, adapting to Quebec's cool nighttime temperatures.

Bumble bees help pollinate **economically important** crops, such as tomatoes, strawberries, sweet peppers, and zucchinis. In greenhouses, for example, they are used to pollinate tomatoes, **increasing yields by 25% to 30%** compared with manual or natural pollination.



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Habitats

- Areas bordering fields and pathways
- Fallow fields, grasslands, and pastureland
- Areas near woodlands and wetlands

Did you know?

The yellow-banded bumble bee is a **versatile** pollinator that also contributes to the production of many field crops, including blueberries, apples, cranberries, strawberries, garden vegetables, fodder crops, and grain crops, although these are often self-pollinated or wind-pollinated.

Legal status: 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

What you can do to help the yellow-banded bumble bee

Preserving habitat	Reduce activities that alter soil characteristics (removal of wood debris, compaction, drainage modifications) to prevent habitat loss or deterioration, as the bumble bee nests and hibernates underground.
	Restore prairie borders, riparian buffers, and marginal open habitats by seeding with a combination of early-, mid-, and late-blooming native flowering plants.
	Avoid mowing the outskirts of fields more than once a year and during the period when queen bees emerge (April to June and in the fall), and favour partial or group cutting as methods of forest management.
Encouraging reproduction	Plant herbaceous riparian buffers, hedgerows, windbreaks, and perennial crops containing a **variety of flowers that bloom at different times.**
	Enhance riparian buffers and other habitats with species that bloom in early spring to **create nectar sources** for queens seeking a nesting place. Examples include willow, maple, buckwheat, yellow and white sweetclover, sunflowers, clover, and flowering fruit trees.
Reducing mortality	**Avoid the use of neonicotinoid pesticides**, as they can accumulate in runoff and in the pollen and nectar of flowers, potentially harming the survival of bumble bees that feed on them.
	Reduce the use of other pesticides (including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides) and fertilizers by using integrated pest management methods that promote soil health.

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