Bumble bees are one of Wyoming’s most important and mild-mannered pollinators. There are more than 20 species in Wyoming, which you can often tell apart by the color patterns on their bodies. This guide shows color patterns for queen bees only, and some species can have multiple queen patterns!

Adapted from the “Bumble Bees of the Western United States” by Jonathan Koch, James Strange, and Paul Williams (2012).

Areas in yellow indicate where each species is found in Wyoming.

How can you tell it’s a bumble bee?

Bumble bees are the largest bodied bees in Wyoming. Queens can be up to two inches long, but most queens and workers are somewhat smaller than that. They’re very hairy all over their bodies, and carry pollen in “baskets” on their hind legs.

Did you find a bumble bee?
Submit your observation to the Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation’s website: BumbleBeeWatch.org
You can be a member of the citizen science community!

Black Tail Bumble Bee
Bombus melanopygus

Common
Brown-Belted Bumble Bee  
*Bombus griseocollis*

Common

California Bumble Bee  
*Bombus californicus*

Uncommon

Central Bumble Bee  
*Bombus centralis*

Common

Cuckoo Bumble Bee  
*Bombus insularis*

Common
Fernald Cuckoo Bumble Bee
*Bombus fernaldae*

Uncommon

Forest Bumble Bee
*Bombus sylvicola*

Uncommon

Frigid Bumble Bee
*Bombus frigidus*

Rare

Fuzzy-Horned Bumble Bee
*Bombus mixtus*

Common
Half-Black Bumble Bee
Bombus vagans

Morrison Bumble Bee
Bombus morrisoni

High Country Bumble Bee
Bombus balteatus

Hunt’s Bumble Bee
Bombus huntii
Nevada Bumble Bee
*Bombus nevadensis*

Common

Red-Belted Bumble Bee
*Bombus rufocinctus*

Common

Red-Belted Bumble Bee, continued

Suckley Cuckoo Bumble Bee
*Bombus suckleyi*

Uncommon
**Two-Form Bumble Bee**  
*Bombus bifarius*  
Common

**Western Bumble Bee**  
*Bombus occidentalis*  
Rare throughout much of its range, but common in Wyoming.

**White-Shouldered Bumble Bee**  
*Bombus appositus*  
Common

**Yellow Bumble Bee**  
*Bombus fervidus*  
Common in Western U.S.
Wyoming has many species of native bees, butterflies, moths, wasps and flies that are responsible for pollinating services. Learn more about pollinators as well as access other field guides, lesson plans and images of these organisms at:

www.wyomingbiodiversity.org/pollinators

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