



Conserving the Buzz: A multifacitated approach to conserving Canada’s bumble bees

WHY ARE BUMBLE BEES IMPORTANT?

Known for their effective pollinating services, bumble bees support the success of terrestrial ecosystems globally by facilitating the reproduction of wild and agricultural plants. Unfortunately, North America’s native bumble bees are in decline, with 26% of species assessed as ‘vulnerable’, ‘endangered’, or ‘critically endangered’ by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



Diagram: Wildlife Preservation Canada

BUMBLE BEE RECOVERY PROGRAM

Wildlife Preservation Canada’s Bumble Bee Recovery Program has four main components: Community Science, Education and Outreach, Research and Monitoring, and Conservation Breeding.

Community Science/ Education and Outreach

Active participation from local communities helps to protect bumble bees. Through education, outreach, and engagement initiatives, community members contribute to data collection and monitoring efforts, enhancing our understanding of bumble bee populations and their habitats.

Population Monitoring

Population monitoring is conducted seasonally with teams collecting queens and monitoring bumble bees across different regions.

Conservation Breeding

Conservation involves breeding at-risk species, like the yellow-banded bumble bee, to aid declining populations. Through controlled mating and careful monitoring, breeding condition efforts are improved which ensures the survival of mated queens through artificial overwintering.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Explore Wildlife Preservation Canada’s [resources](#) and [classroom materials](#).
- Learn how you can participate in [community science initiatives](#).
- Record your observations and learn about bee species in your area using the [iNaturalist App](#) and [BumbleBeeWatch.org](#).
- Start a pollinator garden and make a safe space for bees by not ‘cleaning up’ your yard.
- Use the free, Canada-wide [Native Plant Database](#) to naturalize your property.
- Discover Watersheds Canada’s [free resources](#), such as the “Wildflower Garden Guide”, and the “Native Plant Care Guide”.