

New Jersey Native Bees

350 wild species, and not a hive among them

More than **350 species of native bee** live in New Jersey, and the honey bee is not one of them. Nearly all are **solitary, about seven in ten nest in bare ground**, and almost none of them will ever sting you.

350+
native bee species
in New Jersey

7 in 10
nest in bare,
sunny ground

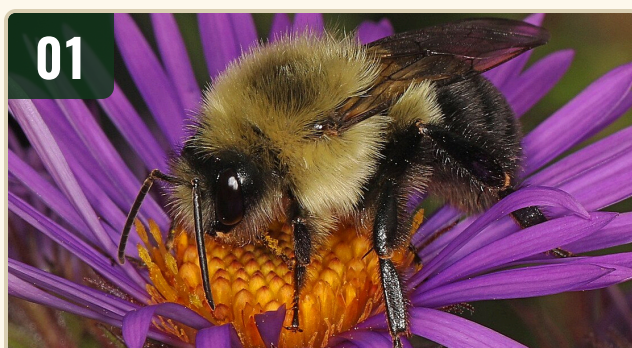
0
hives, honey or
queens among
them

1
bee here is not
native:
the honey bee

BEES THAT NEST IN THE GROUND

A pencil-width hole in bare, sunny soil.

01 - 05



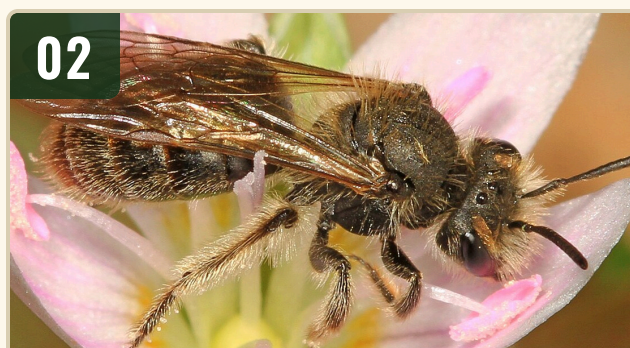
01

Bumble Bees

Bombus impatiens

Furry, loud, yellow shoulders.

Our only native that lives in a large colony.



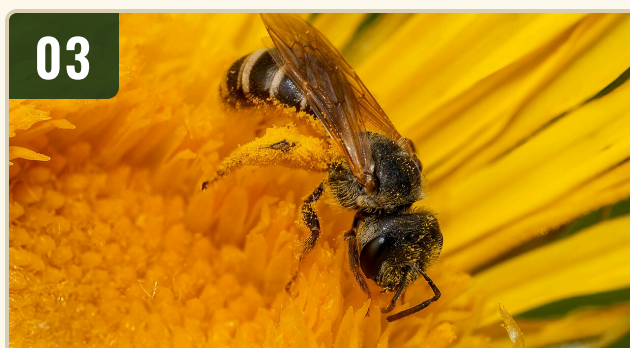
02

Mining Bees

Andrena erigeniae

Slim, dark, honey bee size.

Flies in spring. Digs in bare soil.



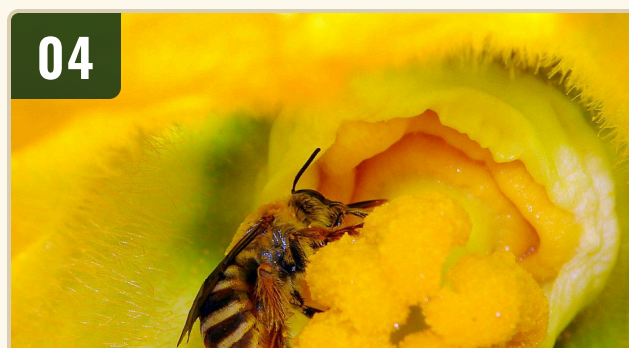
03

Sweat Bees

Halictus ligatus

Small, dark, pale bands.

Lands on your arm for the salt.



04

Squash Bee

Xenoglossa (Peponapis) pruinosa

Flies at dawn.

Squash and pumpkin only, nesting under the vines.



05

Long-horned Bees

Melissodes bimaculatus

Males have body-length antennae.

Late summer, on sunflower and aster.

BEES THAT NEST IN WOOD AND STEMS

Beetle holes, hollow twigs, pithy stalks.

06 - 10



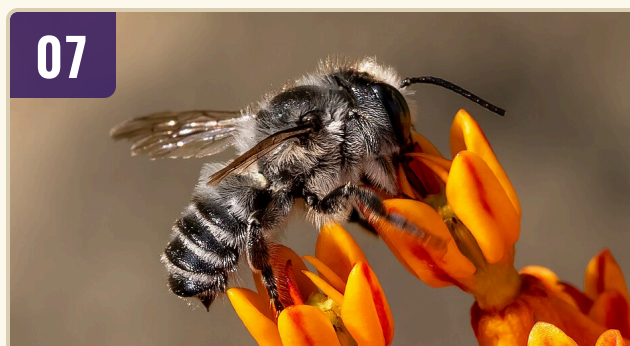
06

Carpenter Bee

Xylocopa virginica

Big, bare, black and shiny.

Our largest bee. The only one that cuts its own hole.



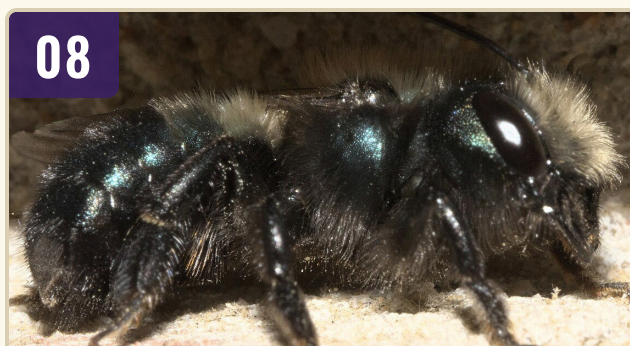
07

Leafcutter Bees

Megachile texana

Pollen brush under the belly.

Cuts half moons from leaves to line its nest.



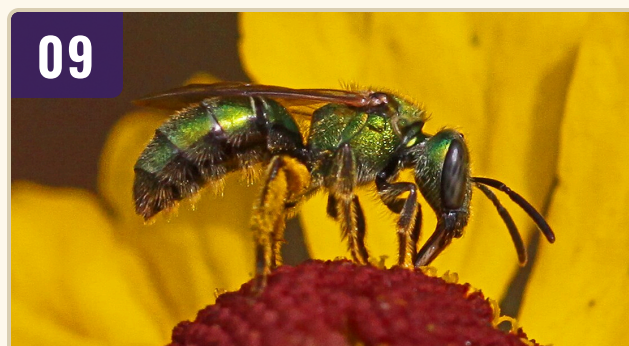
08

Mason Bees

Osmia lignaria

Stout, metallic blue black.

Walls each cell with mud. Out for fruit bloom.



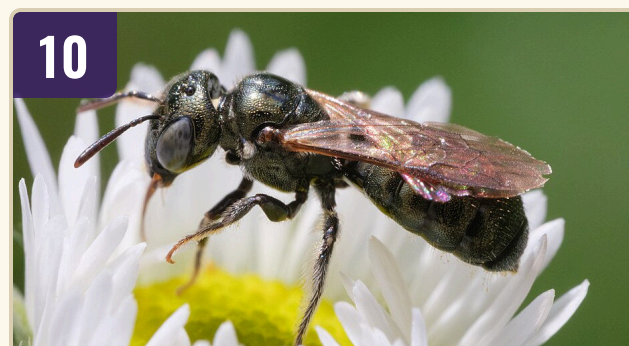
09

Green Sweat Bees

Augochlora pura

Bright metallic green, rice-grain size.

Nests in rotting logs.



10

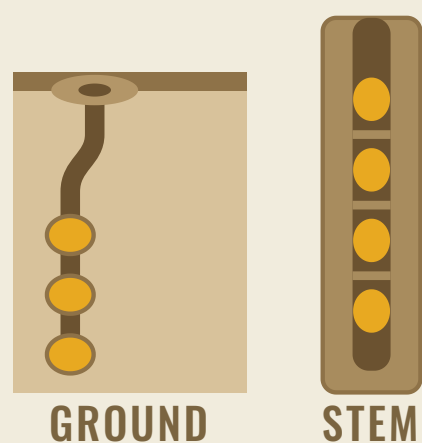
Small Carpenter Bee

Ceratina strenua

Tiny, dark, with a blue sheen.

Hollows out the pith of a broken stem.

WHERE THEY ACTUALLY LIVE



GROUND

STEM

About **seven in ten** dig into the ground. Most of the rest use a tunnel something else made: a beetle hole, a hollow twig, a cut stem. **Only carpenter bees chew their own wood.**

THE ONES WE ARE LOSING

- **Rusty patched bumble bee.** Gone from **87 percent** of its old counties. Not seen in New Jersey since 2000. Federally endangered.
- **Yellow-banded** and **American bumble bees** are falling steeply across the Northeast.
- Over 140 years, every steep decliner in the Northeast was a bumble bee. **Big body, narrow diet.**
- Most of our specialists have **never been surveyed.**

WHAT A YARD CAN DO

- 1 Leave bare ground.** A few sunny, unmulched square feet.
- 2 Let the stems stand.** Cut last year's stalks to a foot in spring.
- 3 Bloom March to frost.** Willow, mountain mint, goldenrod, aster.
- 4 Put the sprayer down.** No insecticide kills only one insect.

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SCAN TO VISIT