

Honey Bee



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

HONEY BEE

FAMILY: Apidae

ORDER: Hymenoptera

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ worker bees are 1/2 inch long; queen bee is larger and rarely seen
- ◆ thorax is brown and fuzzy with hairs
- ◆ abdomen is brown with yellow or yellow-orange stripes
- ◆ legs are dark and hairy and the hind legs have pollen sacks which are often loaded with yellow pollen



Where to Look:

Honey bees are often seen feeding on lawn weeds such as clover and many other flowering herbs and shrubs. The hives can be found in hollow trees or commercial hives.

Who Eats It?

The larva of other types of bees are often found in the hives of honey bees feeding off the rich honey or the honey bee larvae themselves; other predators include honey-loving mammals such as bears.



LIFE CYCLE

COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

Honey Bees live in colonies made up of the queen that lays the eggs, drones that fertilize the eggs, and workers that collect nectar and pollen and feed larvae, and virgin females that eventually leave to start new colonies of their own.

What It Eats

Adult honey bees feed on nectar and pollen and the larvae are fed 'bee bread', a mixture of honey and pollen.



Did You Know

Honey bees have a fascinating social structure and many interesting behaviors including the ability to communicate with each other. Honey bees use complex dances to tell other bees the exact location of good nectar sources.

Role in the Ecosystem

Honey bees are extremely important pollinators of many different kinds of plants including many of our crop plants.