
NZ Bumblebee Conservation Trust

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NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2024

Bumblebees Everywhere

What a summer for bumblebees it's been. Here at our garden in Tauranga we have been 'flooded' with that low hum of bumblebees droning as they move from flower to flower.

What could be better than hearing the real sounds of summer in your garden!

Even when out and about walking across fields we have been thrilled to see there is no shortage of our super pollinators this season. Our pic shows bumbles enjoying thistle flowers in the Wairarapa. They were just everywhere!

We hope you found the same at your place and its a sign that our bumblebee populations are growing and healthy!



Save a Bumblebee

Q. I found a bumblebee sitting on my garden path. Using a leaf, I gently moved it to a more sheltered spot near to a flowering shrub, but last night was a bit cold so I'm worried that I should have brought it indoors. What was the right thing to do?

A. Well done! Bumblebees are always best left outdoors. They have a lovely hairy coat to keep them insulated and their body fluid acts a bit like antifreeze. This means they are well equipped to deal with cold weather. Bringing bumblebees indoors can actually cause more harm than good as it can disturb their natural body rhythms. You could also put out a small amount of sugar syrup in a small dish to give the bumblebee some energy.



What are these clusters of Bumblebees on my flowers?

If you see clusters of bumblebees outside their nest they will be the male bumblebees or drones. Most males are forced out of the nest when they mature and have to spend the rest of their lives sleeping on flowers and in holes. This is perfectly normal. You may sometimes see them flying around nests waiting for queens to come out so that they can mate. Male bumblebees have rounded bottoms and cannot sting, so please don't be alarmed if you see this.

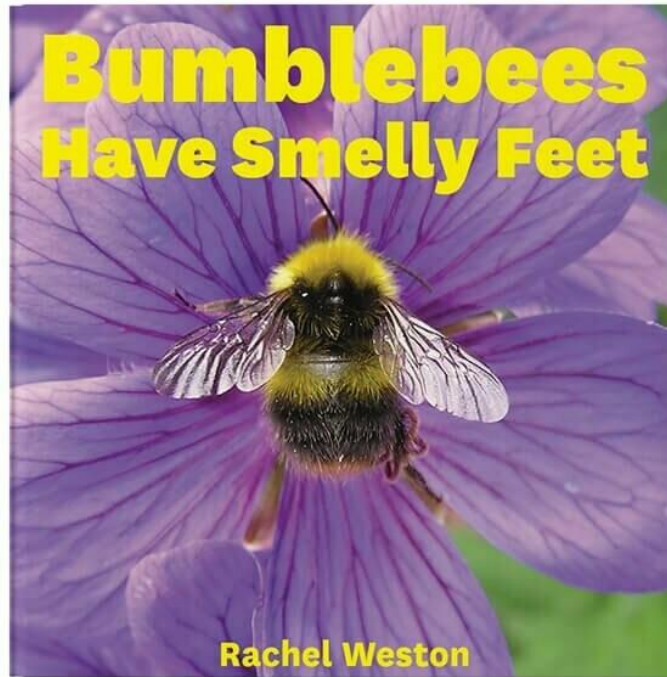
Many thanks for this picture sent to us from a Waikato flower grower.



Bumblebees Have Smelly Feet

This is an amazing children's book (actually ideal for adults also) written by one of our Trustee's - Rachel Weston. This is the book that our Trust has sent to 80 schools. Learn some fascinating buzz facts on why bumblebees have whiffy

feet, how their bodies work, their super power eyesight, their family life cycle, fun experiments and more! What a great present. The kids just love it.



Sow Wildflowers Now



Autumn is a wonderful time to sow flowers that will overwinter and flower in Spring, providing essential food for the new bumblebees when they emerge after hibernating for the winter.

Our friends at Wildflower World have created a wildflower mix called Bumblebee Buffet. Welcome Bumblebees into your garden with this kaleidoscope of colour. This pack contains tall growing wildflower seed species in a brilliant colour range that will attract Bumblebees into your garden.

A 10 gram pack will cover 10 square metres and is just \$13.00. These are now available on our website so you can grow a beautiful garden and help our Trust all at the same time. [**BUY HERE**](#)





**This Month's
Special**

Cotton Tote Bag
Were \$10.00 each
Now 2 for \$16.00

Help Support our Bumblebees

The future of bees in NZ is under threat. Bees are dealing with disease, battling changing environments, reduced green space and increasing use of toxic pesticide sprays.



JOIN
Become a member 

YOU CAN HELP - Click on the bee and become a member today.

A small donation will go towards our education and conservation programmes.

www.nzbct.org.nz

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