

Pollinators at home ID sheet



Bumblebees are round, fat, furry vegetarians. They move directly from flower to flower gathering nectar & pollen. They have relatively small eyes on the side of their heads & obvious antennae.



Honey bees are much less furry than bumblebees. They have small eyes on the side of their heads & obvious angled antennae. Both bumblebees and honey bees carry pollen baskets on their legs.

Common wasps are relatively thin, with very narrow waists that prevent them digesting anything except fluids. They generally look hairless with the familiar yellow and black coloration. They have relatively small eyes situated on the side of the head & obvious antennae.



Hoverflies are often mistaken for bees & wasps. However, in contrast, hoverflies have very large compound eyes that take up most of the front of their heads & very short, stubby antennae. Hoverflies also hover (of course). They are virtually motionless in front of a flower before it lands.



Butterflies are probably the most obvious of pollinators as they flit between flowers looking for nectar. They have long, slender antennae ending in club shaped tips. They tend to hold their wings closed & upright when at rest, revealing the underside of the wing.



Moths are mostly nightfliers that are attracted to night scented flowers. Their antennae are short with either serrated or featherlike tips. When resting, they hold their wings open, revealing the upperside of their wings.