

Be Friendly to Yukon's native bumble bees by creating a Bee-Friendly Yard

The Yukon is home to 28 species of bumble bees, over half of Canada's native bumble bee species. Some common Yukon native bumble bees that may visit your back yard this summer include:



Vancouver Bumble Bee



Fuzzy-Horned Bumble Bee



Frigid Bumble Bee



Yellow-fronted Bumble Bee

More than one-quarter of North American bumble bees are facing some degree of extinction risk and four of those species live in the Yukon. While at risk nationally, these bumble bees are not yet at risk in the Yukon. We can all do our part to protect these species and other bumble bees by taking steps in our own backyards.



Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee



McKay's Bumble Bee

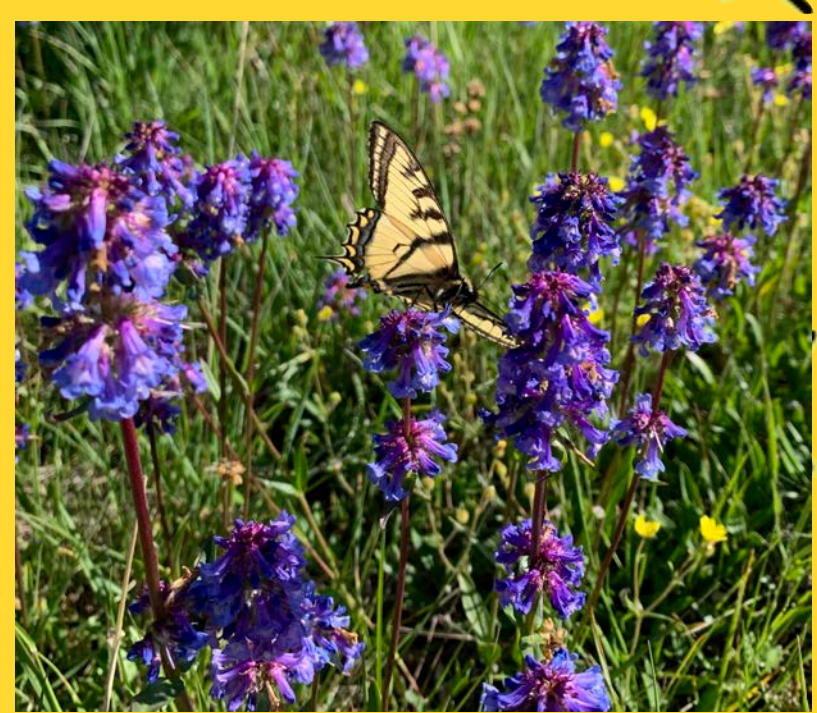


Yellow-banded Bumble Bee



Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee

Flight of the Bumble Bee in the Yukon



Slender Beardtongue



Yukon Beardtongue



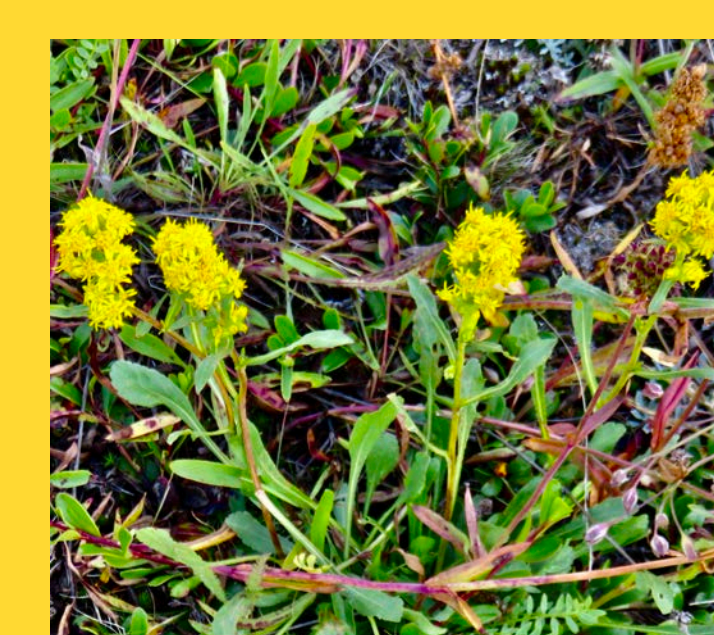
Showy Locoweed



Bear Root



Northern Oxytrope



Goldenrod



Fireweed

Steps for creating a Bee-Friendly Yard

Step 1: Plant a diversity of Yukon native flowers that bloom at different times throughout summer, such as the flowers above, liked by bumble bees. For more Yukon native flower ideas, visit www.yukoninvasives.com and download *Be Plant Wise*. Studies have shown bumble bees in landscapes with abundant flowers are at less risk for disease.

Step 2: Avoid using pesticides and herbicides that kill bees.

Step 3: Create a bee bath for bees to drink water with a safe landing spot.

Step 4: Create safe places for bees to nest in wooden logs and leave your leaves for ground cover.

Step 5: If you choose to be a honey bee keeper, please do it for producing honey; not to save bees. Growing a diversity of native flowers for our native bumble bees will help save bees.

For more information about the needs of native bumble bees, check out Bee City Canada's website at beecitycanada.org and the Xerces Society at www.xerces.org/bumblebees.