

# NZ Bumblebee Conservation Trust

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## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

### Flowers first!

Whether you have a small or large garden, planting bee friendly flowers can help boost your local bumblebee population. In return, they will pollinate flowers, crops, fruits and vegetables.

No matter what size garden you have, you can do your bit for bumblebees by planting at least two kinds of bee friendly flowers for every season.

The best habitats for bumblebees are those that offer plenty of flowers to feed on all year. This will ensure that there is a good supply of pollen at all the crucial times, including when the queens are nesting, when the nest is growing and when new queens are fattening up ready for hibernation!



Gardening is for everyone, so get the children involved, your friends and local community and start growing a haven for bumblebees!

Wildflowers can be purchased online from

[Wildflower World](#).

## Three Myths about Bumblebees

**Bumblebees are important for producing honey.**

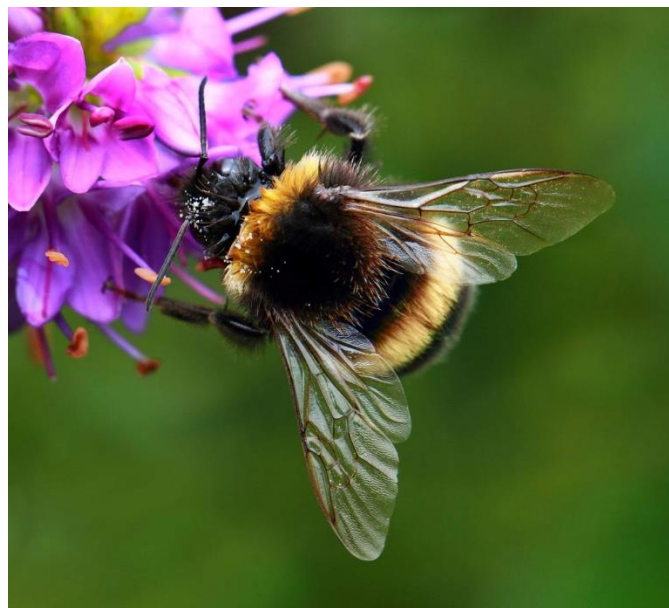
Myth!

Only honeybees produce honey for their colony to feed on over winter. Bumblebees don't do this because only the queens hibernate while the rest of their nest (the workers, males and old queen) all perish at the end of summer. Queen bumblebees feed heavily on nectar to store in fat reserves before going into hibernation.

**Bumblebees can dislocate their wings**

True!

Another impressive thing bumblebees can do with their wings is dislocate them from their flight muscles and shiver them to warm themselves up. This is just one technique bumblebees use in order to keep warm because they are cold-blooded creatures so they cannot regulate their own body temperature.



### **Bumblebees can sting.**

True!

Only female bees (queens and workers) can sting. Male bumblebees cannot sting. Bumblebees are quite docile so they will only sting if they feel under threat. Unlike honeybees, they are not likely to die when they sting. Honeybees have barbed stingers which can get stuck in whatever they are stinging and gets pulled off as it flies away. Bumblebees have smooth stingers which allows them to fly away easily and eject less venom.





## This Month's Special

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

## Bumblebees with a message

Joanne Ostler from Cambridge has shared some of her beautiful drawings that also impart a lovely message. There are more on our [website](#)



### 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 subscription will go towards our education and conservation programmes.

[www.nzbct.org.nz](http://www.nzbct.org.nz)