POCKET GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING THE RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEE

**Bombus affinis**

If you find Bombus affinis, please contact bumblebees@xerces.org.

Visit [www.xerces.org/bumblebees](http://www.xerces.org/bumblebees) for more information.

Other common bumblebees of eastern North America

- **Bombus pensylvanicus**
- **Bombus auricomus**

Historic range of Bombus affinis

Other common bumblebees of eastern North America

- **Bombus ternarius**
- **Bombus citrinus** *(cuckoo bee)*
- **Bombus fraternus**
- **Bombus fervidus**
- **Bombus rufocinctus**
- **Bombus rufocinctus**

Male or female?

- Females have 6 abdominal segments versus 7 in males.
- Females have 12 antennal segments versus 13 in males.
- Female hind legs are wider than male hind legs.

Identifying **Bombus affinis**

- **Worker**
  - Workers and males have a distinctive rusty brown patch on the front half of their second abdominal segment. The hair on their heads is mostly black.
  - On the thorax, black hairs extend from a central patch in the middle of the thorax out towards the wings and centrally in a narrow V towards the rear.

- **Male**
  - Queens are similar to workers except they are larger in size and do not have the rusty patch on the abdomen.

Similar bees with yellow at the rear of the second abdominal segment

- **Bombus vagans** worker
- **Bombus atrinus** male *(cuckoo bee)*

- **Bombus bimaculatus**
- **Bombus impatiens**

Bombus griseocollis

B. affinis and B. vagans females, and B. atrinus males have yellow hair covering most of the first two abdominal segments. However, B. affinis workers have a rusty patch on the second abdominal segment.

B. vagans workers and B. atrinus males have yellow hair on the top of their heads while B. affinis have black hair on the top of their heads. In addition, B. vagans have a longer face than do B. affinis.

Similar bees without yellow at the rear of the second abdominal segment

- **Bombus griseocollis**

Female hind leg wider

Queens in black, males in white.

Yellow-headed long-faced bee

Black-headed short-faced bee

For more identification information visit [www.discoverlife.org](http://www.discoverlife.org) and [www.bugguide.net](http://www.bugguide.net).

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