

TYPES OF BEES VISITING WATERMELON: WESTERN U.S.A.

Below we list the bees that most commonly visit watermelon in your region. They are grouped into four types of bees and these groupings are used in the pollination assessment.

Honey bee

Honey bees are medium-sized bees, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ inch long, with stripes on their abdomen. They range in color from orange-brown to nearly black. They have enlarged flattened plates on their hind legs that they use to carry moist clumps of pollen.



Small bees

Smaller than a honey bee.

Includes: sweat bees



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Continued

Large bees

As large as or larger than a honey bee.

The bee that could be most easily mistaken for a honey bee is the squash bee (pictured below left). The squash bee can be similar in size and color to a honey bee but they have very hairy legs, the hairs form combs for carrying pollen. Honey bees have flattened plates on their hind legs surrounded by strong bristles for carrying pollen.

Includes: squash bees, bumble bees, long-horned bees



Green bees

Metallic green, may be infused with gold or red.

Including: the green sweat bee

