

First, find a patch of flowering plants, and keep an eye out to scan for the movement of bumble bees landing and feeding on the flowers.

Once you spot one, start taking photos! It may take a couple of tries to get the right angles, so patience is key!

TIPS AND TRICKS:

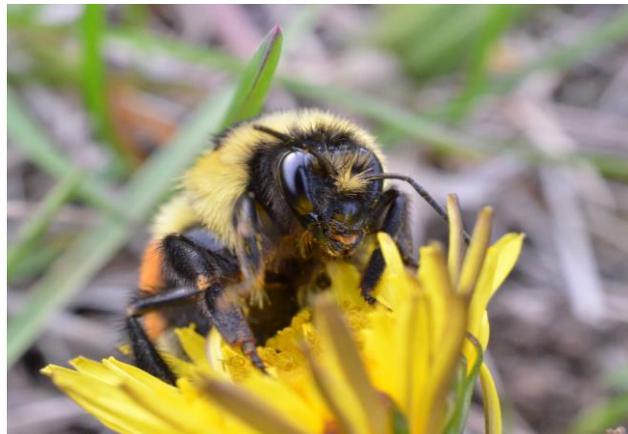
- Use burst/continuous photo mode to help you take many photos at once.
- Use macro mode (indicated by a flower icon) for detailed close-ups.
- Try to get as much natural sunlight in your photos as possible. This can help with capturing the true colours of the bumble bee, which makes observation verification easier.
- Take a video of the bumble bee! This can be an effective way to capture many different angles. You can use screenshots from the video to upload to BumbleBeeWatch.org.
- If the bee is moving too quickly, collect it with an insect net and transfer to a vial. If you bring an ice pack for surveys you can cool the bee to slow it down, making it easier to get photos from all the different angles. This is the best strategy for both beginners and experts to ensure that their observation can be identified to species!

BEST PHOTO ANGLES:



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1. If you can only get one photo, the best angle is a **side shot** of the bee with a bit of its back (upper side of the abdomen and thorax). This can help show colour variations that might otherwise be hidden under the wings.



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2. A straight on **shot of the face** is very important for identifying certain species. The face colouration can matter for ID, but the face length/shape is often an essential character for telling certain bumble bees with similar colour patterns apart.



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3. A **view of the bee's back** (thorax and abdomen) that clearly shows all colours on the top, middle, and bottom of the thorax and every terga segment can be helpful. Try to make sure the bee's wings aren't blocking anything important!