



Busy Bees

Bees are one of the most important pollinators.

Static electricity builds up on their hair due to friction with the air. Pollen, which has an opposite charge, is attracted to bees, and bees can become covered with pollen.



Aster: Shilmei Barger CC BY-NC-ND 2.0; Beardtongue: Dan Mullen CC BY-NC-ND 2.0; Coreopsis: Thomas Knox CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Busy Bees

Bees are attracted wide variety of floral-scented flowers. Bees often visit flowers that are flat, open shapes, bell-shaped and/or daisy-like. They prefer yellow, purple and white flowers.



Busy Bees

Bee mimics such as this fly can also be good pollinators.



Busy Bees

Ruby-throated Hummingbird drinking nectar from a cardinal flower.

The stamen (male) and stigma (female) parts of the flower are at the tip of the uppermost part of the flower. They brush the feathers on the bird's head where pollen is transported.



Great blue lobelia Fritz Flohr Reynolds CC BY-SA 2.0 (above); Coral honeysuckle: Dan Mooney CC BY-NC 2.0 (top right) ; Beebalm Dan Mullen CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 (bottom right)

Busy Bees

Hummingbirds are particularly attracted to red flowers with tubular shapes but do visit flowers with other colors like lobelia.



Banana flower: Maria Keays CC BY 2.0; Guava flower: Asha Susan CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Busy Bees

Flowers that are large, strongly scented, usually light colored and flower at night are attractive to bats.



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Busy Bees

The fur of nectar eating bats such as this grey-headed flying fox can become dusted with pollen.



Butterfly: Andy McLemore CC BY-SA 2.0;

Busy Bees

Butterfly visiting flower.

Butterflies are generally poor pollinators as they perch on long legs above the stamen and stigma and lack specialized structures for collecting pollen. However, butterflies travel further than bees between flowers so that increases the chance of cross pollination.



Busy Bees

Moths are generally better pollinators than butterflies due to their hairy bodies and shorter legs.

Moths are usually attracted to floral white flowers that bloom at night.



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Busy Bees

Beetles are also important pollinators.

They often pollinate very small flowers such as compound daisies.



Mathias Appel: Public Domain

Busy Bees

The world's largest pollinator is the critically endangered black and white ruffed lemur.

They pollinate the traveler's palm tree in Madagascar



Busy Bees

Who would likely pollinate a trumpet creeper?

A hummingbird



Busy Bees

Who could pollinate an evening primrose (it flowers at night)?

A moth (hawkmoth)



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Busy Bees

Who could pollinate a sunflower?

A bee