



HELP US SAVE THE BUMBLEBEE

Bumblebees have a fat, furry look and are large-bodied bees. Native to North America, bumblebees are a social bee that live in colonies. At its peak in late summer, a colony can have anywhere from 15-300 bees. There are about 250 species of bumblebees, which live primarily in temperate regions, and about two dozen reside in Canada.

Three ways you can support bumblebee conservation:

- **Habitat Creation** - Bumblebees are notoriously picky nesters, with less than 25% chance of occupancy in artificial nests. Success can depend on a number of factors including species, nest location, nest materials and simple luck. Enticing cave-like cavities can be created using small piles of rocks, pots, birdhouses and other yard materials.
- **Forage Diversity** - Focus on perennial native species. Native

plants and bees have evolved together and are therefore perfectly suited for one another. Native plants also require less maintenance because they have adapted to local growing conditions. Pollen and nectar-rich annuals and non-native plants can also be beneficial.

- **Pesticide and Herbicide Use** - When maintaining your yard, look for natural alternatives for pest and weed controls. When purchasing seedlings, look for neonic-free plants as they express pesticide throughout their lifespan

Aim for at least three different plants for each blooming season

IF YOU FIND AN UNWANTED COLONY/NEST, PLEASE
CALL THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS LANDSCAPE
HORTICULTURIST AT 403.885.6364

BLACKFALDS
ALBERTA