

Name _____



What Does a Bumblebee Eat?

Bumblebees are herbivores, which means they only eat plant-based foods. Their main diet consists of nectar and pollen from flowers. These tiny insects play an important role in pollination while they search for food. Let's explore what and how bumblebees eat!

Nectar is a sweet liquid found inside flowers. Bumblebees use their long tongue, called a proboscis, to sip nectar. This sugary liquid provides them with energy to fly and work throughout the day. Pollen, on the other hand, is a powdery substance found on the flower's stamen. Bumblebees collect pollen on their fuzzy bodies as they move from flower to flower. They brush the pollen into special baskets on their hind legs called pollen sacs. This food is rich in protein and is used to feed the young bees back at the nest.

Bumblebees are excellent foragers and choose flowers with lots of nectar and pollen. They visit wildflowers, garden plants, and even crops like tomatoes and strawberries. Bumblebees are not picky eaters when it comes to flowers, but they prefer plants that bloom in the early morning or late evening.

Although bumblebees are small, they are incredibly hardworking. One bumblebee can visit hundreds of flowers in a single day to collect enough food for its colony. Once they've gathered nectar and pollen, they bring it back to their nest. The nectar is stored and used as a quick energy source, while the pollen is shared among the colony.

Bumblebees depend on flowers to survive, and in turn, they help plants grow by spreading pollen. Without these busy bees, many of the fruits and vegetables we eat would not grow. Bumblebees are a key part of our ecosystem, showing us how nature works together to keep everything in balance.