

# Bees of Florida

Rachel E. Mallinger, James Weaver, Emily Noordyke, Shiala M. Naranjo



Did you know there are over 320 species of bees in Florida, and over 4,000 in the United States? This is an abridged introductory guide to some of the common bee groups and species you may encounter in Florida. Wild bees vary widely in behavior, color, size, and shape.

1 inch



## SWEAT BEES

Size:

Very Small to Medium

Number of Species:

~66



*Agapostemon splendens* ♂



*Augochlora pura* ♀



*Lasioglossum versatum* ♀



*Halictus poeyi* ♀

## LEAFCUTTER BEES

Leafcutters are a diverse group of solitary bees in the genus *Megachile* known for cutting round segments of leaves used to line their nest cells. They are most easily identified by the pollen-carrying hairs under their abdomens. These bees may occupy bee houses and hotels.

Size:

Medium to large

Florida Species:

~26



*Megachile campanulae* ♂



*Megachile integrella* ♀



*Megachile pseudobrevis* ♀



*Megachile texana* ♀

## MASON BEES

Mason bees are also solitary bees in the family Megachilidae and tribe Osmiini. Most are metallic dark blue, though some are black and white striped. They are known for lining their nest cavities and entrances with mud. These bees may occupy bee houses and hotels.

Size:

Small to large

Florida Species:

~14



*Osmia chalybea* ♂



*Osmia georgica* ♀



*Osmia atriventris* ♀



*Hoplitis truncata* ♀

## BUMBLE BEES

Bumble bees in the family Apidae, genus *Bombus*, are most easily identified by their robust size, hairy abdomens, and packed pollen balls on female hind legs similar to honey bees. The hairs on the abdomen vary in color including black, yellow, white, and orange.

Size:

Large to very large

Florida Species:

~6



*Bombus griseocollis* ♂



*Bombus fraternus* ♀



*Bombus impatiens* ♀



*Bombus bimaculatus* ♀

Photos courtesy of USGS Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab.

## CARPENTER BEES

Size:

Very Small or very large

Florida Species:  
~5



*Xylocopa virginica* ♂



*Xylocopa virginica* ♀



*Xylocopa micans* ♀



*Ceratina dupla* ♀

## LONGHORNED BEES

Size:

medium to large

Florida Species:  
~24



*Melissodes communis* ♂



*Eucera dubitata* ♀



*Melissodes bimaculata* ♀



*Svastra atripes* ♀

## MINING BEES

Size:

very Small to large

Florida Species:  
~63



*Andrena confederata* ♂



*Andrena hippotes* ♀



*Perdita bishoppri* ♀



*Perdita bradleyi* ♀

## PLASTERER BEES

Size:

very small to large

Florida Species:  
~26



*Hylaeus ornatus* ♂



*Hylaeus modestus* ♀



*Colletes distinctus* ♀



*Colletes thoracicus* ♀

## CUCKOO BEES

Size:

Small to large

Florida Species:  
~73



*Nomada australis* ♂



*Triepeolus lunatus* ♀



*Coelioxys germana* ♂



*Epeolus bifasciatus* ♀

## HONEY BEES

Honey bees are ubiquitous, medium-sized bees that live in large colonies and are used intensively for agricultural pollination, honey production, and as a hobbyist pastime. There is only one honey bee species in Florida, the non-native European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*. Most honey bees in Florida are from managed hives, but feral colonies are also common.

