

# BEES AT LUMBERJACK



## Honey bees

The honey bees always live in a colony and are mostly kept by humans. There are two main types of honeybees that are widespread in our area:

- **the dark honey bee** (*mellifera mellifera*) - the archetype of honey bees in the northern Alps
- **the Carinthian honey bee** (*mellifera carnica*) - a cultivated form from the dark honey bee.

A colony of bees includes a queen, a few drones and a lot of workers. The queen lays the eggs. The drones are male and pass their semen on to other queens. In this way, the continued existence of other bee colonies can be ensured and inbreeding can be avoided.

The workers take care of the rest: they raise the larvae, build nests and of course collect nectar.

The honey bee plays an important role in domestic agriculture and is the third most important livestock after pigs and cattle.



## Wild bees

Wild bees are species of bees that are not domesticated.

They are NOT, as is often assumed, wild honeybees.

There are almost 700 different species of wild bees in Austria, including 47 species of bumblebees.

Most wild bees (over 90%) live as solitary animals, but some also form small colonies.

Wild bees are particularly important for pollination. Many plants cannot be pollinated by honey bees at all.

They depend on the survival of the wild bees.

Tomatoes, for example, are usually pollinated by bumblebees because they are strong enough to shake the pollen (flower seeds) out of the firm pollen sacs - honey bees would have no chance here. Wild bees and honey bees together pollinate around 80% of native wild and useful plants.



Wild bees and honey bees pollinate about 80% of the of native wild plants and crops.

## Let's help the wild bees & bees

Gardens close to nature, flowering plants at all flowering times from spring to autumn and niches or insect hotels as nesting places attract many wild bees and bees. In this way we can provide important livelihoods for these small animals.

## Endangered bees

Our wild bees are a prerequisite for us to be able to eat fresh fruit and vegetables every day without any human influence.

However, wild bees are endangered by many environmental influences:

- Monocultures cause important food sources to be lost
- Pesticides make the bees sick or they even die
- by sealing the surfaces (Construction of roads, houses, asphaltting of parking lots etc.) no more plants grow there
- There are hardly any unused areas that can be used as nesting sites for wild bees
- Wild bees can also be displaced by too many honey bees. Especially when the honey bee flies to the same flowers as the specialized wild bee.

