

Grumpbee is a mining bee. Females dig a hole in bare ground and build their nests in the soil. Males have markings on their face. The marking on this species looks like a frown. But like Grumpy Cat, he isn't grumpy at all. He is gentle and kind-natured. Some people even call the bees in this family "tickle bees." There are over 200 species of mining bees in Oregon, making his the biggest family in the state. This specific bee was found by Atlas volunteer Debra Brimacombe, in her efforts to help inventory all the bee species in Oregon.

Grumpbee

Photo by Lincoln Best



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Bees make healthy food

Grumpbees pollinate apple and pear trees.



Plain yogurt + peanut butter =
Food Hero Peanut Butter Yogurt Dip

Serve with apple or pear slices.

<https://foodhero.org/recipes/peanut-butter-yogurt-dip>



The Salty Dog is also known as the alkali bee. She has lovely yellow-green stripes and she makes her nests in a tough place, alkali salt beds in Eastern Oregon. Thousands of females flock to these beds to build underground nests. Each female rolls pollen into 12 to 24 little balls and lays an egg on each. Alfalfa seed growers have learned to build these beds for the bees, helping them set more seed, which turns into hay that is fed to livestock to make things like smoothies (with milk or yogurt) and meatballs. Cool!

The Salty Dog



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Bees make healthy food

Salty Dogs pollinate alfalfa for beef cows.

Photo by Jim Cane



Sauteed vegetables + protein choice + brown rice + shredded cheese =

Food Hero Rice Bowl Southwestern Style

<https://foodhero.org/recipes/rice-bowl-southwestern-style>



WAGGLE DANCER is the well-known worker honey bee. Brought from Europe to the Americas in the 1600s, she lives in the most complex society of any bee in Oregon. She can have 50,000 sisters, all sharing the same mom (called “the queen”). She is also the only bee that makes honey. The taste and color of honey varies depending on what flowers she visits (and Oregon has some delicious honey). Incredibly, she uses a waggle dance to give her sisters directions to the best flowers in the neighborhood.

WAGGLE DANCER



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Bees make healthy food

WAGGLE DANCERS pollinate carrots.



Carrots + oil + seasoning =
Food Hero Roasted Carrots

<https://foodhero.org/recipes/roasted-vegetables>



Bumbles is a bumble bee queen. She is one of the biggest bees in Oregon. The queens of Morrison Bumble Bees, which are found in Eastern Oregon, are particularly big. Like other bumble bees, these queens will build a small nest, helped a month later by their daughters (called “workers”), in an abandoned mouse nest. Workers are a lot smaller and may even have different color patterns than queens. The nest dies out by the end of summer, but not before new queens fly off to hibernate. Oregon has over 25 different species of bumble bees.

Bumbles



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Bees make healthy food

Bumbles pollinate clover for dairy cows.



Tomato + cheese + seasoning =
Food Hero Baked Tomato with Cheese

<https://foodhero.org/recipes/baked-tomatoes-cheese>



The Mason is a female blue orchard bee. She emerged in the spring from a cocoon hidden in a raspberry stem. She collects pollen from thousands of apple, pear and cherry flowers, causing them to fill up with fruit. She takes this pollen back to a new hollow stem, piles it up and then lays an egg on it. To protect her offspring, she builds a little mud house around each cell, using her fancy mouth-parts to collect and shape the mud. Secure, the baby eats the pollen, turns into an adult and flies out the following year.

The Mason



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Bees make healthy food

The Masons pollinate cherries.



Banana + cereal + yogurt =
Food Hero Breakfast Banana Split
Top with fresh cherries.

<https://foodhero.org/recipes/breakfast-banana-split>



Bling Bee stands out in a crowd! Oddly, she belongs to a family of bees (Halictidae, or the sweat bees) that are rather drab. There are five different species of these brilliant emerald bees in Oregon (all in the genus *Agopostemon*). A single female will dig a long, narrow tunnel in the ground to nest. She makes holes in the walls of these tunnels where she leaves a ball of pollen for her young to eat. These bees are very common and are some of the last bees you will see at the end of the summer. Look for them on purple asters in your garden.

Bling Bee



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Bees make healthy food

Bling Bees pollinate radishes.



Yogurt + radishes + cucumber + seasoning =
Food Hero Radish and Cucumber Salad

<https://foodhero.org/recipes/radish-and-cucumber-salad>



Lil' Lumberjack is a bee you might miss if you're not paying attention. This metallic-colored bee (in the genus *Ceratina*) is literally everywhere, but it's so small that you are likely to miss it. The bees live in dead twigs. They bore into the twigs and use the sawdust to make little chambers to protect their young. The mothers also raise one small daughter—a Cinderella daughter—who helps with the housekeeping and protects the nest from predators while the mother is out gathering nectar and pollen. Oregon has five different species of Lil' Lumberjacks.

Lil' Lumberjack



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Bees make healthy food

Lil' Lumberjacks pollinate berries.



Berries + yogurt =
Food Hero Raspberry Fruit Dip
Serve with fresh fruit.

<https://foodhero.org/recipes/raspberry-fruit-dip>



Scissor Head Bee (*Megachile rotundata*) knows how to cut perfect circles on the edge of a leaf. She can do this because of her scissor-like mouthparts. She will take the cut leaf back to her nest. As many as 50 leaf discs harden into a nest around each developing bee, protecting them from parasites. Alfalfa seed growers remove the nests in Fall. The following Spring they incubate the nests just in time for the bees to emerge and pollinate alfalfa flowers. The cleverness of alfalfa seed growers has made the scissor head bee the most widely managed solitary bee in the U.S.

Scissor Head



Photo by Lincoln Best



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Bees make healthy food

Scissor Heads alfalfa for dairy cows.



Cauliflower + egg + flour + cheese =
Food Hero Baked Cauliflower Tots

<https://www.foodhero.org/recipes/baked-cauliflower-tots>

