

## GENERAL FACTS

- Bumble bees belong to the genus *Bombus* species, part of the Apidae bee family.
- Mild-mannered in nature, these bees make for excellent pollinators through spring to late autumn.
- Work in perfect unison with leafcutter bees and other bee types.
- Bumble bees are varied in appearance, but typically are plump and densely furry.



## KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ Grow more food and flowers
- ✓ Bumble bees can fly in cooler temperatures, unlike a honey bee
- ✓ Increase pollination and crop yields
- ✓ Awesome pollinators of flowers and fruit trees

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Bumble bees can visit flowers 1-2kms from their colony
- While foraging, bumble bees can reach ground speeds of up to 54km/h



# GET INVOLVED

We need community involvement so that we can continue pollinating our gardens, orchards and crops.



<https://www.beegap.co.nz>



# BUMBLE BEE ABODE

Information guide



## WELCOME

### OVERVIEW

Passionate about the future of bees in New Zealand, *Creative Woodcraft* has teamed up with pollination experts to help spread the word and encourage Kiwi gardeners to raise and nurture gentle-natured bees to their backyards.

Bees are vital pollinators for our fruits, nuts, vegetables and flowers. In fact, they pollinate 1/3 of our food supply and 1/3 of the feed for our meat sources nationwide.

Historically, commercial growers have relied primarily on the honey bee. However, this social bee is now facing troubles - and while science looks for answers, BeeGAP (in association with *Creative Woodcraft*), offers an excellent pollination supplement with the use of solitary leafcutter bees and bumble bees.

## IMMEDIATE POLLINATION

### THE BUMBLE BEE

The bumble bee is typically mild-mannered in nature and make for excellent pollinators through spring to late autumn.

The most immediate method available, introducing a live colony to your garden will create instant benefit to your flowers, trees and vegetable plots.

The live colony allows you to implement effective pollination at your fingertips, available where and when you want them.



Bumble Bee Abode

### SITING THE ABODE

Place the Bumble Bee Abode on some stones/bricks, to ensure the Bumble Bee Abode is not in direct contact with the ground and remains dry.

It is important to ensure there is a clear space immediately in front of the Abode for easy exit and entry. The abode should be placed in full or partial shade and will manage itself.

## INTRODUCE YOUR LIVE COLONY

### INITIAL SET-UP/TIMINGS

For initial set-up, open the flight hole no sooner than one hour after placing the hive outdoors, and not immediately before dusk.

If late in the day, it is worth waiting until the next morning. To do this, simply slide the plastic slider to ensure the IN/OUT hole is open. Sit back, relax and enjoy!

### MAINTENANCE

The bumble bee colony will require little to no maintenance. In fact, once you have positioned the Abode and released them, no further steps are required.

### FASCINATING TO WATCH

The working bumble bee colony is fantastic to observe, watching the comings and goings of your bumble bees will sure to be a talking point. Educate children by gently lifting the lid of your Bumble Bee Abode (we suggest early evening when the bees are less active), and allow them to observe the nesting activity.

For more information, visit [www.beegap.co.nz](http://www.beegap.co.nz)



\*Live bumble bee colony sold separately

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What should I do when I receive my live colony?

The Bumble Bee Live Colony is completely self-contained and requires no maintenance. Insert cardboard hive containing your live bumble bee colony and follow instructions.

### What will bumble bees pollinate?

Bumble bees are an ideal pollinator for covered crops and equally successful at pollinating a wide range of fruit trees, vegetables and flowers.

### What is the difference between honey bees and bumble bees?

The main difference between these bee species is the willingness to fly in cooler, wetter weather conditions. The bumble bee will start work earlier in the day at lower temperature, and in light rain and wind - whereas the honey bee typically won't be active.



### Can bumble bees be used along with honey bees, and other bee species?

Yes, absolutely! Bumble bees and honey bees can work as a great combination with each other. In fact, add to the mix a colony of healthy leafcutter bees and the pollination possibilities are endless.

### How is your live bumble bee colony packaged?

The live bumble bee colony is sold complete. They have recyclable plastic components, and an outer cardboard box. The hives are approximately 300mm x 300mm, and fit perfectly inside the Bumble Bee Abode for protection against the weather.