

## Honeybees of Delaware - Look for Them in Bethany Beach

According to the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA), *“Successful fruit and vegetable production would be at risk without a healthy honey bee population. Bees are also essential for pollinating wildflowers and native trees and shrubs, which are the backbone of the state’s forests and natural areas, which yield the fruits and seeds that sustain wildlife.”* It is estimated that one third of global food production requires pollination, 80-90% of which is accomplished by honey bees. Thus, honey bees are a significant source of income, and honey is known to have health benefits.

Fifteen species of bees have been observed in Delaware in recent years. A list of these species is provided at the end of this article along with a weblink to find photos, descriptions, scientific names, and more. Honey bees are critically important as pollinators for the fruit and vegetable industries, and for maintaining healthy ecosystems in generation since these, and other bees, pollinate flowers and shrubs too. The DDA website states: *“Delaware’s 7,200 bee colonies, valued at \$350 per colony, represent a \$2.5 million honey bee industry for the state and contribute to the successful production of nearly \$30 million worth of fruits and vegetables annually.”*



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Did you know that the State of DE has a [Beekeeping Law](#) (Title 3, Chapter 25) in place to regulate beekeeping and help protect bees from diseases. The law also requires the appointment of a State Apiarist who is charged with numerous duties to protect the health of Delaware bees. Bee and bee colonies brought into DE or established in DE must register with the State Apiarist and follow regulations regarding equipment, colony management, disease and pest control, and marketing, among other things. Any person who has issues with bee swarms as they temporarily amass while moving to a new colony location can find information on the [State website](#) about what to do and what not to do. Those interested in the various aspects of honeybees can look into commercial pollinator vendors and their services. These beekeepers provide pollination services for farmers or gardeners interested in renting bee colonies to pollinate their crops.

The Natural Resources Defense Council [provides information](#) about supporting bees, in general, or in establishing a pollinator garden. *“Bees feed off of nearby flowers, carrying sticky pollen on their legs and pollinating plants as they forage from two to four miles. Plant annuals that bloom throughout the season or perennials that bloom in sequence to provide food all year long. The ideal plants depend on where you live, but bees love native wildflowers and flowering trees—like wild cherries, horse chestnuts, tulip trees and crepe myrtles, for example—as well as fruit and vegetable gardens. (Read more tips on attracting bees and other pollinators [here](#).) Watch out for toxic plants, like azaleas and rhododendrons, or ones that produce less nectar, like pansies. “If we all do this, we have a real opportunity to create a good stretch of pollinator habitat,” says Guillermo Fernandez, executive director of the [Bee Conservancy](#), “and to enjoy watching the wildlife that stops by for a sip of nectar.”*

The [Delaware Beekeepers Association](#), founded in 1936, is another source of information about our bees. This organization sponsors speakers and workshops on beekeeping, hive management, equipment, disease management, and more. Monthly meetings scheduled for 2023 are held in Newark, DE.

### [15 Types of Bees Found in Delaware! \(2023\)](#)

Bumblebees	European Western Honeybees
Large Carpenter Bees	Small Carpenter Bees
Long-Horned Bees	Sweat Bees
Squash Bees	Digger Bees
Polyester Bees	Masked Bees
Cuckoo Bees	Mason Bees
Leaf Cutter Bees	Miner Bees
Carder Bees	

### [Images of Honey Bees and Beekeeping Operations](#)

#### **Additional Information**

[Heifer International - Save the Bees](#)