

Garden Bumblebee

Bombus hortorum

Insects · Active Mar-Oct



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A long-bodied bumblebee with three yellow bands — one at the front of the thorax, one at the back, and one on the first abdominal segment — which run together to look like a single broad yellow band across the middle, and a white tail. The head is noticeably long. Garden bumblebees are common in gardens, hedgerows and woodland edge around Dumfries.

BEHAVIOUR

The tongue can be as long as the bee's whole body and is carried tucked under the head in flight. That reach opens up deep flowers no other bumblebee here can service properly — foxglove, honeysuckle, comfrey, vetch, aquilegia — making this bee a disproportionately important pollinator of long-tubed plants. Nests are usually just below ground or in dense vegetation.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Bees (Apidae)
SIZE	Queens 19–22 mm
STATUS	Native; common, and a key pollinator of long-tubed flowers

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