



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Information sheet number 12 - The Bumble Bee



Appearance:

The bumble is round and more wasp shaped cousin.

There are three kinds of bumble bee, the large Queen, the smaller imperfectly formed female worker bee and the tiny male or drone bee. All are seen at different times of year.

Breeding:

The queen will locate a suitable place to build her nest. Once the eggs hatch the larvae eat their way through the pollen reserve. Eventually the grubs pupate and the grubs emerge a few days later as fully grown worker bees. The queen continues to lay eggs and spends her whole time in the nest. Unlike honey bees the young bumble queens will continue to live and work in the colony for the remainder of the Summer and Autumn.

Food:

In the first warm days of Spring you may see the large queens flying busily about the early bulbs and flowers. These large slow bees are searching for nectar and pollen to turn into honey and food for their newly hatching brood.

Where do Bumble bees live?

Most common are the leaf litter in a hedge bottom, an old mouse hole, a cool dark place under a large stone or under the wooden floor of a garden shed or other building. Because the bumble bee does not live in a large colony the nest is usually little bigger than half a grapefruit even in the busiest days of high Summer.

Diseases & damage:

No diseases are passed on by these bees. Not all bumble bees have a sting. Drones have no sting at all. Bumble bees are much less aggressive than honey bees. Generally they will not attack a human at all, unless their life is under threat. Only the Queen and the worker bees have a sting. No damage is caused by these bees either.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049