

Honeybees

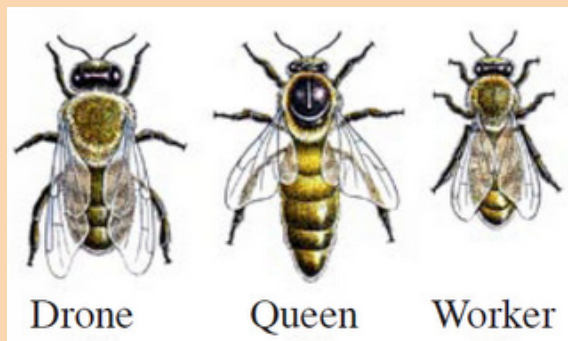


There are over 20,000 species of bees in the world, but only 4,000 are native to North America. The common European honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, was brought to the United States in 1622 by English settlers.

Most bees are solitary, but honeybees are social and live in large groups, or colonies. An average, healthy summer hive can hold more than 30,000 bees. Three

types of bees exist in a colony: the queen, drone, and worker bee. Each colony has one queen and her job is to lay eggs. A drone is

a male bee, and its sole purpose is to mate with the queen. Worker bees are the females and outnumber the drones. When young, worker bees stay in the hive creating comb, processing honey, cleaning, and caring for new bees. When older they work outside, collecting food and pollen.



“Bee” Kind

Not ready to become a honeybee keeper but still want to help pollinators? Build a mason bee house or offer a fresh sip of water with a bee bath.



When gardening, avoid fertilizers with neonicotinoids and choose a variety of plants so your yard blooms from spring to fall.

Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.

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