



*Ceratina dupla*      *C. strenua*      *C. floridana*

## Small Carpenter Bee (*Ceratina* spp.)

Small, dull metallic blue or greenish blue bee with pale marks on the face and legs.

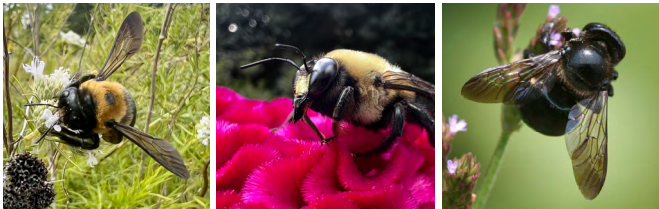
Flight season: March through October

Size relative to a honeybee: 0.5X

Note: Does not resemble other bees

Diet: Generalists (visit many different flowers)

Nest: Made from the pith of cut/browsed stems of shrubs and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants)



*Xylocopa virginica*      male *X. virginica*      female *X. micans*

## Large Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa* spp.)

Uniformly large bee, bumblebee-like, with shiny, glossy black or heavily bluish abdomen. The male's face has a creamy-white coloration below the antennae.

Flight season: March through October

Size relative to a honeybee: 1.5–2X

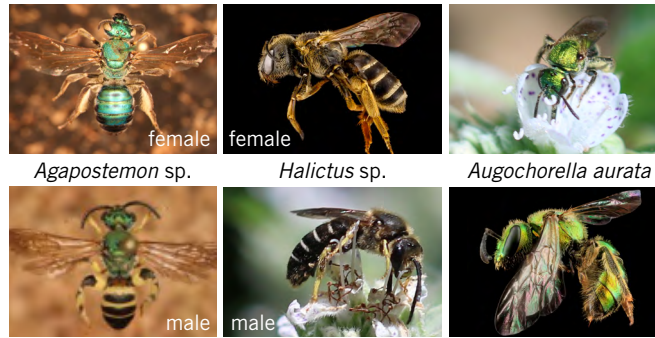
Diet: Generalists

Nest: Excavates tunnels in soft wood



male *X. micans*

## Other Sweet Bees



*Agapostemon* sp. female      *Halictus* sp. female      *Augochorella aurata*

### About This Guide

This guide shows common wild bees found in commercial blueberry fields in southern Georgia, based on sampling in the 2021–2022 seasons in three major producing counties: Bacon, Pierce, and Ware. In total, more than 70 bee species were found.

### Acknowledgments & Disclaimers

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Some photos were sourced from the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center, Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab, and Sam Droege.



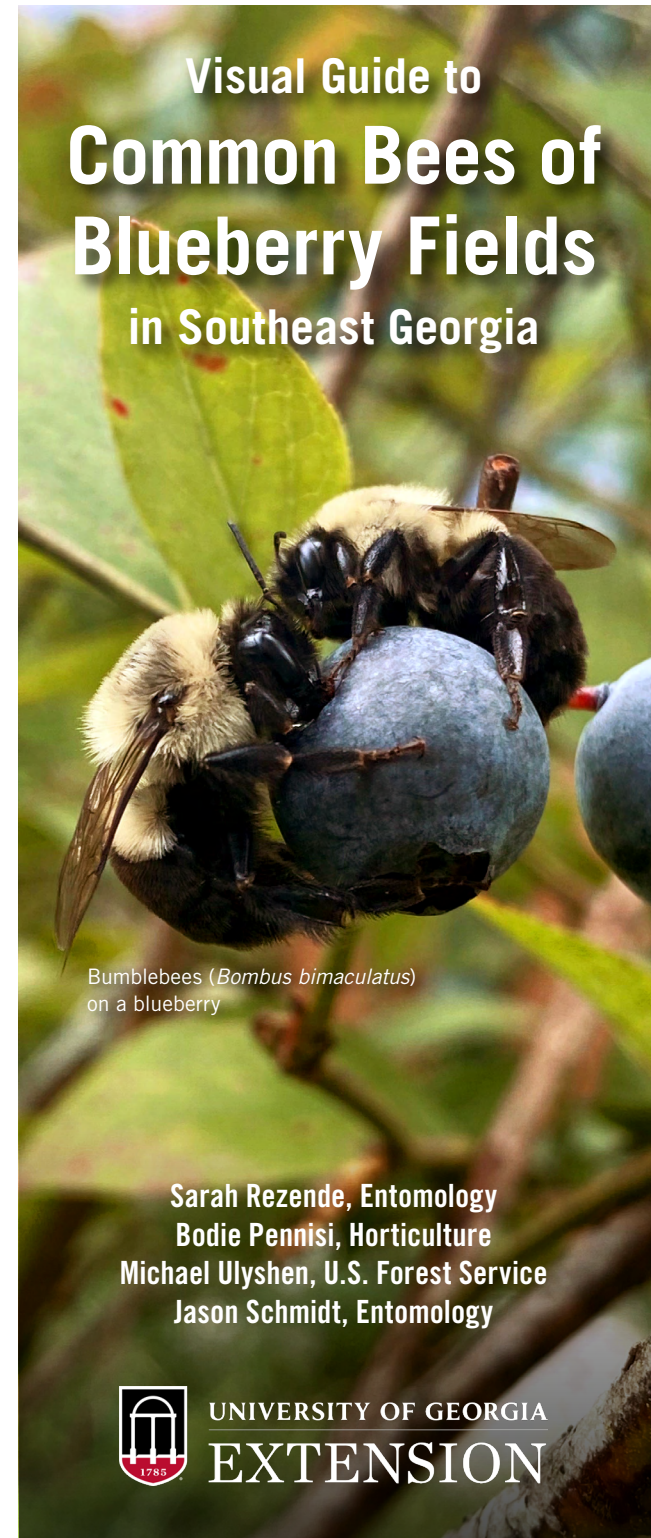
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# Visual Guide to Common Bees of Blueberry Fields in Southeast Georgia

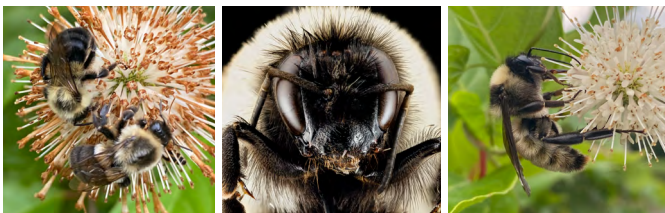


Bumblebees (*Bombus bimaculatus*) on a blueberry

Sarah Rezende, Entomology  
Bodie Pennisi, Horticulture  
Michael Ulyshen, U.S. Forest Service  
Jason Schmidt, Entomology



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*Bombus impatiens*

*B. pensylvanicus*

## Bumblebee (*Bombus* spp.)

Widespread bee group; there are 17 species in Georgia. The body exterior (integument) is completely black and covered with extensive and variable yellow or pale hairs. Wings can be clear or nearly black. Male bees have mustaches on their faces. Females have flattened, bare spots on the hind legs (corbicula), often filled with a dense ball of pollen and nectar.

Flight season: Spring to fall; populations build up in summer

Size relative to a honeybee: 1.5–2X

Diet: Generalists

Nest: Queens overwinter and use rodent burrows or other cavities to create nests and colonies of workers over several months. Queens and males are produced in late summer and fall. They briefly forage for nectar, mate, the males die off, and the potential queens then overwinter underground.



Corbicula on female hind legs

## Other Bees



*Svastra atripes*

*Svastra obliqua*



Mason bee (*Osmia* spp.)

Leaf-cutting bee (*Megachile* spp.)

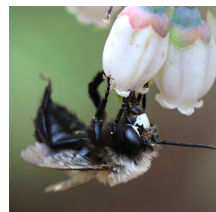


male *Habropoda laboriosa*

female *H. laboriosa*

## Southeastern Blueberry Bee (*Habropoda laboriosa*)

Robust bee, bumblebee-like with clear wings; the top of the head is flattened, and the abdomen is shiny black. The antennae are short. Males have bright white on their faces. The females are known to be very efficient blueberry pollinators.



male *H. laboriosa*

Flight season: Early spring

Size relative to a honeybee: 1.5X

Diet: Flowers of blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp. primarily), other Ericaceae (*Rhododendron* spp., azalea); sometimes legumes [in the Fabaceae family—i.e., *Gelsemium* (Carolina jessamine) and *Cercis* (redbud)]

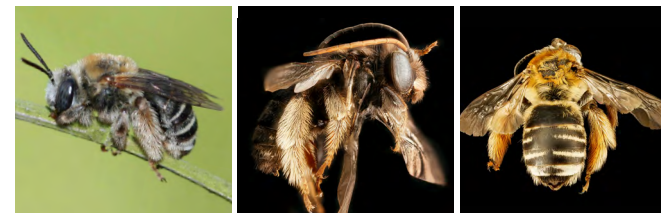
Nest: Ground

## Bee Size Comparisons



Honeybee (top R) and carpenter bee

Honeybee (top R) and bumblebee



*Melissodes communis*

*M. bimaculatus*

*M. tepaneca*

## Long-Horned Bees (*Melissodes* spp.)

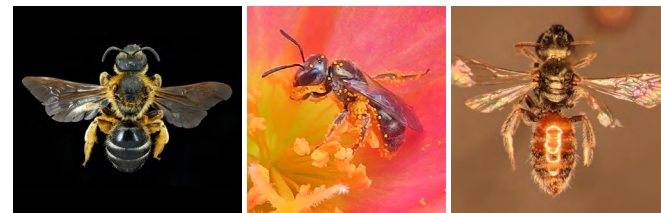
Common in the summer. Most species have transverse bands of white hairs on the abdomen. Males have yellow on their faces and long antennae, hence the name “long-horned.”

Flight season: Summer and fall

Size relative to a honeybee: 1–1.5X

Diet: Almost entirely composites (Asteraceae) with specialists on sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.), thistle (*Cirsium* and other genera), and ironweed (*Vernonia* spp.)

Nest: Ground



*Lasioglossum* sp.

*L. nymphale*

## Sweat Bee (*Lasioglossum* spp.)

A species-rich group of small-sized bees; very abundant. There are black species as well as metallic green/blue species; some species have orange-red abdomens.

Flight season: March through October

Size relative to a honeybee: 0.3–0.75X

Diet: Most are generalists

Nest: Ground

More sweat bees are pictured on the back panel