

BEE MYTHS

All Bees Sting - No

Not all bees can sting. Male bees cannot sting, as the stinger is a modified egg laying device. Despite having a stinger, the females of many bee species actually cannot sting. Most bees will not sting unless they are provoked or threatened.

Honey Bees Can Sting Repeatedly - No

Honey bee workers cannot sting repeatedly, as they have barbs in their stingers that get caught in the skin of the animals they sting. Removing the stinger is fatal to the bee, so it dies afterward. The same does not apply to queen honey bees since they can sting repeatedly, yet they hardly go out of their hives.

Wasps are Bees - No

Although wasps belong to the same order of insects, they are not bees. Bees are vegetarians, collecting pollen and nectar for their young, while wasps are omnivorous that eat plants, meat, insects, nectar, and fruit.

All Bees Produce Honey - No

Less than 5 percent of bee species make honey. Only honey bees and stingless bees produce enough honey to make it worth harvesting. Bumblebee hives may have a small amount, about one to two teaspoons.

Bees Do the Same Job - No

Females are the worker bees. Some of specific worker activities are foraging to collect pollen and nectar, attending the queen, making comb cells, guarding the front of the hive, and carrying water to the hive. Males are drones with the primary role to mate with the queen.

Adult Bees Live a Long Time - No

Solitary bees only live a few weeks, just long enough to mate, build nests, and produce offspring. Honey and bumblebee workers and males live about six weeks. Bumblebee queens live up to one year, and honey bee queens can live up to four years.

All Bees Live in Hives - No

Most bees are solitary and live in individual nests in soil or tree trunks. About ten percent of bee species are social, and only a small percentage of them build hives.

Sources:

- <https://www.noble.org/globalassets/images/news/ag-news-and-views/2017/03/pdf/11-myths-about-bees.pdf>
- <http://www.hiveandhoneyapiary.com/beestingmyths.html>

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