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Queen Bumble Bees

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Queen Bumble Bees
Review of last Jan. Meeting

• 5 species of BB in SE MA; 2 of them have been found in fewer numbers over the years. **How do you the species apart?**

• There are many proposed reasons for bee decline including habitat loss, insecticide, climate change, pathogens, and invasive species.

• Different species are active at different points in the year- *B. impatiens* is most active mid July while *B. perplexus* and *B. bimaculatus* are most active mid June

• Bumble bees are better pollinators of cranberry
Review of last Jan. Meeting

• The most important pollen host for all the species studied in 2015 were ... ?

• Flowering trees may also help. The importance of these are underestimated in our studies bc they are hard to reach.

• Bumble bees need variety as do we in our nutritional needs.
2016 Update

• So far we have received data for 150 spring queens.

• Rhododendron still seems to be most common pollen host (48% of queens using it)

• Other species like red clover, spirea, honey suckle, holly, marsh woundwort, and autumn olive were also found to be somewhat important (>10%).
What to do

• If you are thinking about planting some flowers for spring queens I recommend installing rhododendron/Azalea, flowering trees, and/or spirea.

• I do not recommend pansies or forsythia.

• Do not mow wildflowers if you can help it.
Bloom Count App

- If you take bloom count percentages and own an iPhone you can download BloomCount from the app store.