

## Beneficial Species Profile



Photo Credit: [David Cappaert](#), Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** European Honey Bee

**Scientific Name:** *Apis mellifera*

**Order and Family:** Hymenoptera: Apidae

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	1mm – 1.5mm	White, shaped like small grain of rice, deposited by queen inside hexagonal wax cells of the honey comb.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		White and grub-like in appearance, growth occurs inside an open wax chamber within the hive.
<b>Adult</b>	19mm	<p>Head, antennae and legs are black. Head and thorax are covered with tawny to orange-brown branched hairs. Abdomen is reddish to golden brown and black with orange-yellow stripes.</p> <p>Queen: The largest of the three castes, and generally the only sexually reproductive member of the hive.</p> <p>Workers: Workers are all female, non-reproductive, and the smallest of the three castes. Workers care for the queen, care for the young larvae, produce wax, mend the hive, gather pollen, water, and nectar and are equipped with a stinger for protecting and guarding the hive.</p> <p>Drones: Drones are the male caste, developed from unfertilized eggs. Their eyes are larger than that of workers, the abdomen is larger and blunter, and they have no stinger. Their sole purpose is to mate with a Queen from another colony.</p>

<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		White, turning darker as development occurs within the wax cell, which the workers cover with a wax lid.
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**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing-lapping

**Host/s:** Many crops, vegetables, flowers, and fruit trees serve as hosts to the honey bee. Some of the flowers that they visit include clover, dandelions, goldenrod, and milkweed, and multiple fruit trees.

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):** Though European honey bees are not native to the United States, they have become an important component of the current United States agricultural industry. The pollination services they offer help produce the amounts of food necessary for our global economy, a feat that would be difficult for the wild native pollinators. European honey bees also produce a variety of other products including honey, propolis (“bee glue”), royal jelly, and wax.

**References:**

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