Bees in North America

The Whirlwind Tour
Bees are Vegetarian Wasps
20,000 Named Species Worldwide
20,000 More to Describe
~4,000 Species in U.S.
~ 400 Undescribed in U.S.
Diversity Highest in the Southwest
100+ Species at Any Location
Honey Bees are from Mars
20% of Species are Nest Parasites
1% of Bees are Not Native
20-25% of Bees are Pollen Specialists
Squash and Sunflowers have Specialist Bees
About 5% are Cavity Nesters
Hole Nesting Species Can Be Directly Manipulated
Most Nest in the Ground
Carries Pollen Internally
Carries Pollen Under Abdomen
Males Do Transfer Pollen When Nectaring, Do Not Help at Nests
Bees Must Know the Right Song
Most Native Bees Do Not Sting
Native Bees at Times can Provide the Bulk of Crop Pollination
Bees Are Good at Finding Blooming Plants
Woodland Habitats = Orchard Bees
Row Crops = Native Bee Sink
Diversity of Native Plants

= Diversity of Native Bees
Interdigitating Native Habitat With Orchard/Cropland
Habitat Management for Ag Sites
Native Bee Decline = Habitat Loss
Status of Most Native Bees is Unknown
Native Bees Retained by Quality Native Habitat
East of the 100th = Loss of Open Country Species
49 Bumble Bee Species
Eastern Bumble Bee Greenhouse Orchard Production
Loss of Bumble Bees due to Introduced European Parasites
Loss of Meadowland/ Diverse Plant Assemblages
Overplanting Trees
Herbiciding and Mowing of Roadsides/ROW
Sand and Gravel Mine Restoration
Soft Edges
20,000 Species Worldwide
Squash and Sunflowers have Specialist Bees