GUIDE TO MN BUMBLE BEES: MALES

This guide is only for males (13 antennal segments, 7 abdominal segments, mostly common late in the season, no pollen baskets, beards on their mandibles). First determine which yellow highlighted section your bee is in, then go through numbered characters to find a match. See if your bee matches the color patterns shown and the description in the text. Color patterns can vary. More detailed keys are available at discoverlife.org. Join the search for bumble bees with www.bumblebeewatch.org Ab=Abdominal band Ant=Antennal segment

Thorax with yellow near wing base AND 3rd abdominal segment black or orange

1. Black on sides of 2nd Ab, yellow or rusty in center
   - Bombus bimaculatus
ew two-spotted bumble bee
   - Bombus griseocollis
two-banded bumble bee

2. 2nd Ab black
   - Bombus impatiens
   - Bombus rufocinctus

3. 3rd Ab orange
   - Eyes slightly enlarged, Color pattern variable.
   - Bombus avidus
   - Bombus rufocinctus

4. 2nd Ab entirely yellow and Ab 3-6 black
   - Ant 3 is long. Black hair on thorax limited to central spot.
   - Bombus vagans
   - Bombus sandersoni
   - Sanderson's bumble bee

5. 2nd Ab brown centrally
   - Center spot on thorax with sometimes faint V shaped extension back from the middle.
   - Bombus rufocinctus
   - Bombus affinis

Thorax with yellow near wing base AND abdomen segments 1-3 yellow

1. Black spot incenter of thorax
   - Not large eyes. Very short cheek.
   - Bombus citrinus
   - Bombus auricomus
   - Bombus perplicus
   - Confusing bumble bee

2. No obvious spot on thorax
   - Large eyes
   - Variable color patterns.
   - Bombus auricomus
   - Bombus perplicus

Thorax with black stripe between wings

1. Ab 1-4 yellow
   - Black on top and front of head. Sides of thorax yellow.
   - Bombus fervidus
   - Bombus borealis
   - Bombus pensylvanicus
   - American bumble bee

2. Ab 2-3 orange
   - Often with orange on 7th Ab. Sides of thorax with dark hair.
   - Bombus ternarius
   - Tricolored bumble bee
   - Bombus huntii
   - Hunt's bumble bee

Rear half thorax is black

1. 1st ab black
   - Smaller and stouter than many other bumble bees. Fringe of yellow hairs near end of abdomen.
   - Bombus terricola
   - Bombus insularis
   - Indiscriminate cuckoo bumble bee

2. 1st ab yellow
   - Ab seg 1-3 black.
   - Ab seg 1 yellow.
   - Ab seg 6-7 with orange. Variable color. Often with yellow on rear half of thorax. Sometimes Ab 2-3 yellow
   - Bombus bohemicus
   - Ashton's bumble bee
   - Bombus flavus
   - Female cuckoo bumble bee