

BEEES

Our Most Famous Pollinators Over 500 Species in Oregon

Varied and valuable, bees come in a wide array of sizes, shapes, and colors. They are also varied in their life styles, the places they frequent, the nests they build, the flowers they visit, and their season of activity. The non-honey-bee bees are often ignored or unknown to most of us. Yet, they provide an invaluable ecosystem service -- pollination -- for over 80 percent of the flowering plants.

What would our world be like without the beauty of flowering trees, shrubs, and wildflowers?

Bees pollinate approximately 75 percent of the fruits, nuts, and vegetables we eat every day.



SOUTHEASTERN OREGON BLUEBERRY

The southeastern blueberry bee, *Habropoda laboriosa*, is a hard working little creature capable of visiting as many as 50,000 blueberry flowers in her short life and pollinating enough of them to produce more than 6,000 ripe blueberries. At market those 6,000 blueberries are worth approximately \$20 or more. Not every bee that you see flitting about may be worth \$20, but all of them combined keep the world of flowering plants going. The world as we know it would not exist if there were no bees to pollinate the earth's 250,000 flowering plants.

*Photos: Klamath
Siskiyou Native Seeds*