MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO • ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

NATIVE BEE MONITORING PROJECT 2024 REPORT

In 2024, the Métis Nation of Ontario provided supplies to 45 citizen households for the Native Bee Monitoring Project from May to October. The project encouraged Métis households to support local bees, particularly solitary bees that nest in hollow cavities and bumble bees. Citizens monitored native bee species, tracked native plants, and recorded seasonal weather patterns linked to climate change.

MAY was the first month participants noticed **native bees outside**.

A majority of participants (**97.5%**) stated they had **ONTARIO NATIVE PLANTS** in their yard or on their property. Approximately **40%** noticed bloom times were earlier than usual, up to a month earlier for Sedums and Dandelions.

BUMBLEBEES The majority of images submitted by citizen monitors were Bumblebees. Ten species were identified including: **Brown-belted bumble bee**, **Common eastern bumble bee**, **Golden northern bumble bee**, **Half-black bumble bee**, **Orange-belted bumble bee**, **Perplexing bumble bee**, **Red-belted bumble bee**, **Two-spotted bumble bee**, **Yellow-banded bumble bee**, and **Yellowish cuckoo bumble bee**. We also had our first sighting of a species at-risk – the **Yellow-banded bumble bee**!

52 DIFFERENT PLANT SPECIES were identified in photos with **41%** native to Ontario. The most common were **Aster**, **Japanese Meadowsweet** and **Heal-all**, which flower in late summer to fall and provide forage for bees. **Hydrangea**, **Goldenrod** and **Sedum** were also common. Although some are naturalized in Canada, eight invasive species were identified including: **Spotted dead-nettle**, **Lilac**, **Burdock**, **Himalayan balsam**, **Daisy**, **Lantana**, **Round-headed leek**, and **Milk Thistle** .

WEATHER

Nearly all project participants noted unusual weather patterns in their region throughout spring, summer, and fall of 2024. Warmer temperatures were the primary concern across all seasons. In spring, participants observed increased precipitation, including snow and rain, while fall saw a decline in precipitation.

Métis Nation of Ontario