

# Backyard BEASTIES

Female  
blue-banded  
bees

By Jenny Thynne



I'm a native blue banded bee. You can tell I'm a female by the larger dark markings on my face and I have four blue stripes, while the males have five.



I sometimes like to hang out with other female blue banded bees.



But most of the time, I prefer  
my own company.



I'm a very busy bee. My day is spent hopping from flower to flower, collecting pollen for my nest and drinking nectar.



There's so much pollen to collect.  
I don't think I can fit any more on my back legs.



My ability to perform buzz pollination, where I vigorously vibrate my flight muscles, helps pollinate some wildflowers and food crops that other bees can't.



Sometimes, orchid pollen grains get stuck to my back.





I use my proboscis to ...



... feast on yummy nectar ...



... deep inside the flower.



If I can't reach inside the flower, I pierce the lower part of the petals with my proboscis.



Any more nectar over here?



I think I'm just about full!



Time to go home to my nest burrow.  
I've another busy day tomorrow!



Help me by planting a bee-friendly garden. 😊





Stay tuned for more  
**Backyard  
BEASTIES**

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