

# Findings from the Field

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## Bees Ways

Breanna Y.

*Harrison Middle School, Yarmouth, ME*

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# Bees Ways

By: Breanna Y

Stonecrop plants are popular with bees (Montgomery County Beekeepers Association 2020). These stonecrop plants are the bee's autumn joys (The Alamance County Beekeepers 2016). They also love dandelions; however, dandelions lack the amino acids that bees require (The Daily Journal 2018). It has been found that bees are attracted to colors like blue and yellow; on the other hand, they dislike the color red (NYBG 2018). They see red as black, the absence of color, and bees dislike dark colors (NYBG 2018). Darker colors can remind them of a predator, like a skunk or a bear, and the bees will attack (Rest Easy Pest Control 2018). There are many plants that have pros and cons for bees.

On May 22, 2020, in a yard in Yarmouth, Maine, I walked outside and found that bees were everywhere. I saw that a bee landed on a stonecrop plant at 11:34 a.m. The bee was there for about five seconds before it went into the plant. I could see it go straight to the center before it disappeared. Then, after two minutes, at 11:36, it came out with a jolt and flew away. Again on May 27, 2020, in the same place, I found that another bee landed on the stonecrop plant, at 10:42 a.m. The same process happened. It landed on top, sat there for 3.8 seconds then dove into the plant. I could no longer see what was taking place. It was in there for 1 minute and 47 seconds, before it came out.



When observing the Dandelions, on May 27, 2020, at 10:27 a.m., in Yarmouth, Maine. The bee landed on the flower and sat there for 48 seconds. As it sat on top, it moved around a little, but then flew away. Then again, on May 28, 2020, at 11:10 a.m. I observed that the bee went through the same process. It landed on the flower, sat there, and moved around a little. This time it only sat there for 32 seconds and then the bee flew away.



Bees like many different flowers. I never came to a conclusion as to why they go to the stonecrop plant, even when it wasn't in full bloom. There might be some pre-pollination that happens with the stonecrop plant, but I did find that when Stonecrop plants are in bloom they tend to be yellow and blue. Bees are attracted to the colors yellow and blue. They always stayed longer on the stonecrop plants compared to the dandelions. I believe that happened because the dandelions lack the amino acids that they need. Bees go to many different plants for many different

reasons. The type of plant will affect how long the bee stays there, because of the nutrition that it has inside of it and also because of the physical makeup like color.

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