

# Honey Bees

## Genus: *Apis*

The average honey bee-hive contains around 25,000 bees.

Carrot Flowers

Did you know that one honey-bee hive can produce up to 80 pounds of honey a year?

### Field Notes:

**Honey bees**, which belong to the genus ***Apis*** (pronounced AY-pis), are pollinators of agricultural crops worldwide. That's because 1) they pollinate many different types of plants (some other bee species are very picky eaters), and 2) they are so easy to manage.

For hundreds of years beekeepers have known how to raise them in portable nests that they can move from field to field. Honey bees make tasty honey, too, which is how they got their name. They are a medium-sized bee that ranges in color from black to pale yellow. Colonizing Europeans brought honey bees to North America starting in the 1620s. In Oregon, they are one of the only pollinators of carrots, which Oregon farmers mainly grow not for the vegetable, but for the seeds produced by carrot flowers. Farmers from around the world grow carrots from Oregon carrot seeds.



The next time you eat a carrot, thank a honey bee!