

Bumblebees of the World

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Bombus pratorum

is widespread throughout Europe, except in the south of the Iberian Peninsula. It is a small and quite common species that loves light forests, meadows, parks and gardens.

The species has a red tail, which is usually much smaller and duller orange than in the similar red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*). They mainly build their nests above ground under brushwood, moss and tufts of grass, in hollow trees, bird nest boxes, old bird nests as well as on and in buildings, more rarely in abandoned earth structures.

It is one of the earliest bumblebees to awaken from hibernation each year; the queens can be seen as early as mid-March. Therefore, if you want to do something for these bumblebees, it is especially helpful to plant early flowering plants & shrubs.