

Quiz and Word Search

Can you fill in the blanks in the writing below using the words from this list and the story on page 1? See if you can also find these words in the word search! The words may be forwards, backwards or even diagonal.

Hibernation
Spring
Leaves
Baby
Winter
Queen
Nest
Pollen
Nectar
Hole



..... bumblebees go to sleep during the This is called Before they go to sleep, they must eat plenty of and from flowers. Some queens will dig a in the soil and sleep there. Others will bury themselves under a pile of They go into a long and deep sleep until next when the warm weather will wake them up. Each queen will then start a new of bumblebees!



Issue 6, November 2008

Welcome to the sixth edition of Busy Bees, the BBCT's newsletter written just for children! In this issue:

- Where do bumblebees go in winter?
- How to make a bumblebee home.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email or post them to us at the address on the back page. We'd love to receive any of your poems, drawings or songs. We will display all of these on our website and will even include some of our favourites in future editions of Busy Bees!

Where do bumblebees go in winter?

Hopefully, you have enjoyed watching the bumblebees working busily in your garden this summer. But have you ever wondered where they all go in the winter?

Each bumblebee nest is ruled by a queen bumblebee and is full of worker bumblebees. They collect the food and look after the young bumblebees. In the autumn, the queen lays some special eggs, which hatch out into new queen bumblebees. The old queen bumblebee and the workers will not live through the winter but the new queen bumblebees will. Soon they start to get very sleepy and must find a safe place to sleep during the cold winter months. This is called *hibernation*.

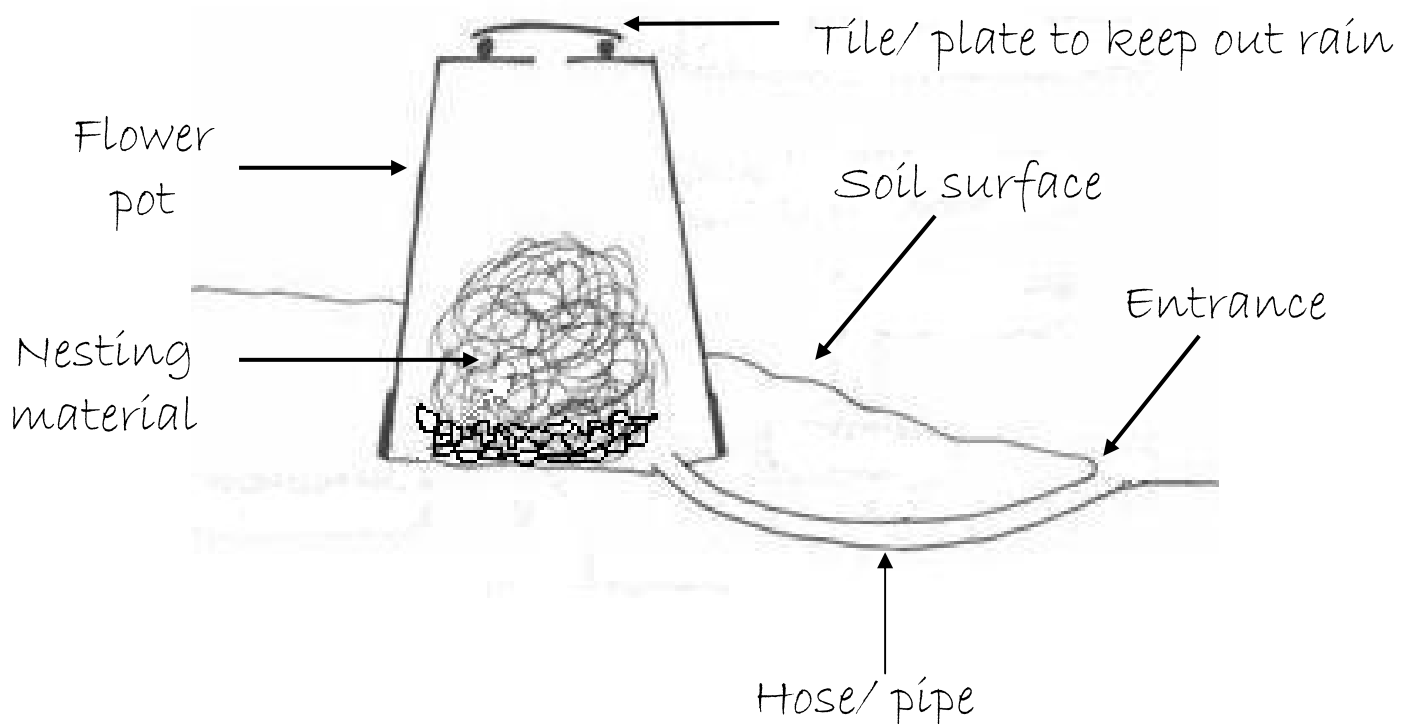
The new queens won't wake up to eat during the winter. So, before they *hibernate*, they eat lots of nectar (a sugary liquid, like juice) and pollen (like yellow dust) from flowers. You can help by planting lots of late-flowering plants in your garden (see our website for more details). Then each queen looks for a good place to hibernate. Some may dig a small hole in the soil. Others might bury themselves under a pile of leaves. Then they settle down into a very deep sleep. They stay like this until the next spring, when the warmer weather will wake them up. Each queen will then start her own nest of baby bumblebees!

How to make a bumblebee home

Although most of the queen bumblebees are asleep for the winter by now, it is the perfect time to make a bumblebee home to put in your garden ready for next spring. In earlier issues of Busy Bees, we have shown you which flowers you can plant to tempt bumblebees into your garden. Now you can give those bumblebees somewhere to build a nest as well!

What you will need:

- A large plant pot, greater than 20cm wide.
- A piece of hose or pipe, greater than 18mm wide and about 30cm long.
- A tile or an old plate/ saucer
- Some dry grass or moss and some hamster bedding.



What to do:



- Please ask an adult to help you.
- Choose a good place in the garden, next to a fence, hedge or flower bed, that is not too sunny.
- Dig a hole in the ground that is about 10cm deep and as wide as your flowerpot.
- Mix some dried grass or moss together with some hamster bedding (if you have a hamster, use some of the used bedding from its cage – the bumblebees like the smell!) Put a good handful of the mixture into the hole.
- Turn the flowerpot upside down and put it in the hole.
- Ask an adult to put some small holes along the hose or pipe to allow water to drain out of it when it is in the ground.
- Put one end of the pipe or hose under the pot (look at the picture on page 2). Bury the rest of the hose in the ground (or just put some soil on top of it) but leave the other end poking out just at the soil surface. To a bumblebee, this will just look like a nice dark hole going underground.
- Finally, put a tile or an upside-down plate on top of the flowerpot to cover the holes in the pot and keep out the rain. You can hold the tile/ plate in place with Blue Tack.

If you watch carefully next spring, you may see queen bumblebees looking at your bumblebee home to see if they like it! Hopefully, one will think it is just right and build a nest inside. Good luck!