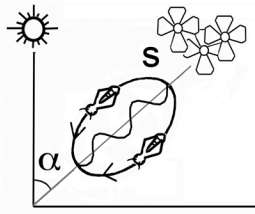
Honey Bee

Apis mellifera

Animalia>Arthropoda>Insecta>Hymenoptera>Apiidae

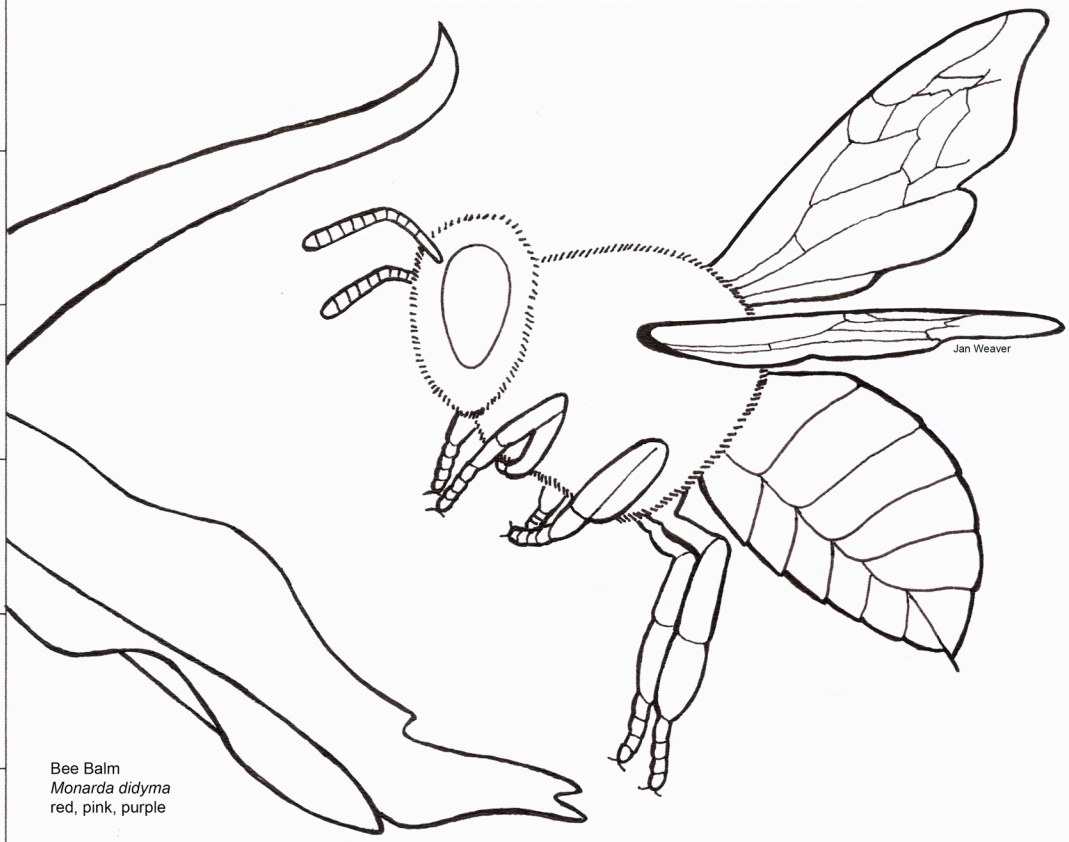
More Information –
Plan Bee – by Susan Brackery, 2010 Penguin USA inc
Wikipedia -
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_honey_bee

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December



A bee uses a waggle dance to tell other bees about a good flower source

s = seconds spent waggling, 1 s = 1 km away
α = angle to the right (or left) of the sun



Bee Balm
Monarda didyma
red, pink, purple

Coloring Guide
Head-golden brown, Eyes-black, Thorax-golden brown, Abdomen segments- yellow at front, black at back, tip is black, Wings-clear

Size
Queens – 0.6 – 0.8" (1.6 – 2.0 cm)
Workers – 0.5" (1.2 cm)
Drones (males) – 0.6" (1.6 cm)

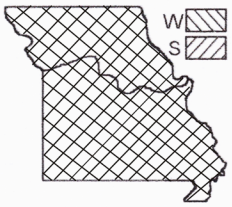
Other Characteristics
Honey bee populations have fallen by 1/3 in the last decade, possibly due to insecticides. 1/3 of US crops need honey bees for the plant to produce fruit

What eats Honey Bees?
spiders, robber flies, dragon flies, mantids, hornets, wasps, toads and frogs, hummingbirds eat bees; bears, possums, raccoons, skunks eat larva

What do Honey Bees eat?
Honey, produced by drying nectar, pollen
Nectar and pollen gathered from flowers:
Chives, Columbine, Iris, Spiderwort, Coreopsis, Milkweed, Coneflower, Bee Balm, Ironweed, Black-eyed Susan, Joe Pyeweed, Boneset, Goldenrod, New England Aster

North America Distribution Map

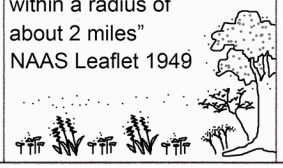
Missouri Distribution Map



not native to MO or US

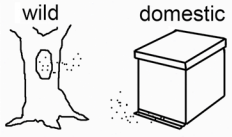
Habitat (home/food/water)

"...a locality that provides pollen and nectar continuously from early spring to autumn, within a radius of about 2 miles"
NAAS Leaflet 1949



Home

wild honey bees use a cavity in a rock, tree or cave; domestic honey bees use a Langstroth hive.



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