



## Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

[www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp)

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

## Rusty-patched Bumble Bee *Bombus affinis*

State Status: **None**

Federal Status: **None**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Rusty-patched Bumble Bee is a native bumble bee. Its abdomen has yellow hairs anteriorly and black hairs posteriorly, with a patch of reddish hairs in the middle of the yellow on its dorsum. As for many native bees, consultation of a technical manual is needed for accurate identification. For a complete description of male and female, see: <http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?search=Bombus+afinis&flags=subgenus>:

**HABITAT:** This species is ground-nesting.

**LIFE HISTORY:** Its flight season is April to October.

**GEOGRAPHIC RANGE:** Formerly, Rusty-patched Bumble Bees were found from Ontario and New Brunswick south to North Carolina, west to North Dakota. In Massachusetts, it was recorded formerly from all counties and considered widespread.

**STATUS AND THREATS:** This bee has exhibited a precipitous decline rangewide and may be extirpated from Massachusetts. Introduced pathogens are primarily responsible for its current status. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has been petitioned to list this species under the federal Endangered Species Act. For more details, see The Xerces Society information at <http://www.xerces.org/rusty-patched-bumble-bee/>.

### REFERENCES:

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*A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan*

## Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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