

Friend and Foe!

You might see insects nesting in the ground. Is it a friend or a foe?



Halictus rubicundus

BEE - FRIEND!

There are almost **500 bee species in BC** and approximately 70 percent of them nest in the ground!

A common genus is *Halictus* as in the video of nectaring males. Some bees nest in aggregations as in the video of the genus *Melissodes*.



Nesting Site in Rose Garden

WASP - FOE if you step on it, but also a **FRIEND** because wasps are voracious eaters of aphid and leaf roller larvae and are also pollinators!



Ground Wasp Nest

Images: Female Halictus – Elaine Sedgman
Wasp Nest – University of Minnesota Extension

Videos: Melissodes Nest – Estelle Berube
Male Halictus – Elaine Sedgman

Sources: Wilson & Carril. *The Bees in Your Backyard*, Princeton University Press, 2016
Hahn, J. *Be on the Alert for Wasp Nests*. University of Minnesota Extension.
<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/late-summer-wasp-nests>