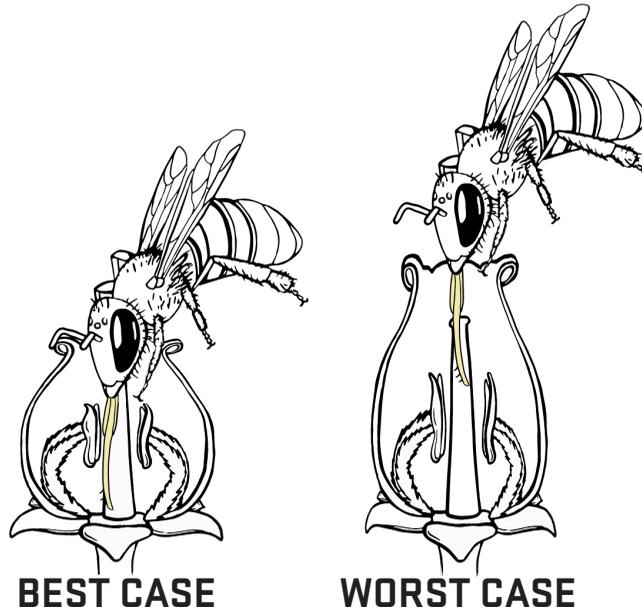


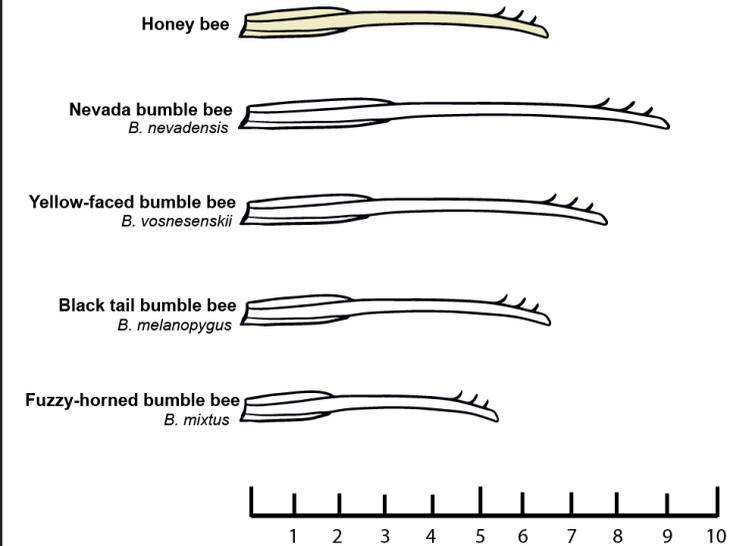


NORTHERN Highbush Blueberry Flower Shape Affects Bee Pollination!

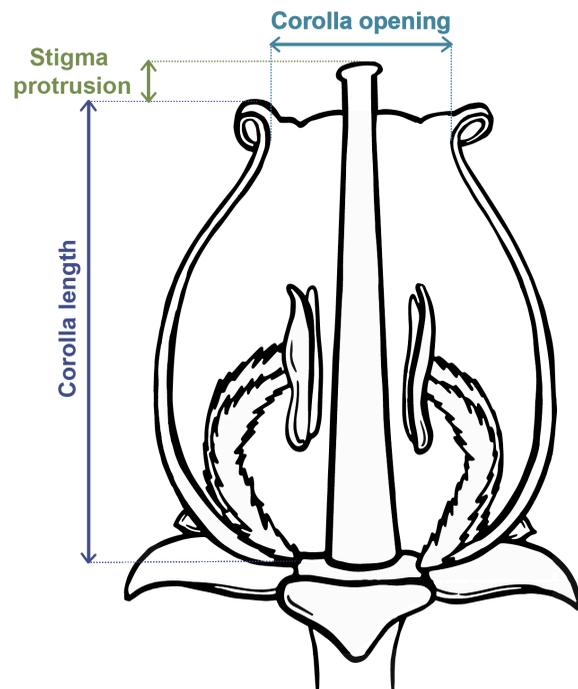
Blueberry cultivars can be hard to pollinate because the flower shape doesn't fit the bee. The **worst case** is when the depth of a flower (**corolla length**) exceeds the tongue length of the bee and the flower opening (**corolla opening**) is too narrow for a bee's head to fit. This problem is made worse when the **stigma** does not **protrude** beyond the flower opening. Use this card to better understand why some cultivars are a challenge to pollinate.



BEE TONGUE LENGTHS (mm)



FLOWER MEASUREMENTS (mm)



Cultivar
Aurora
Bluecrop
Draper
Duke
Elliot
Jersey
Legacy
Liberty
Nelson

Corolla opening	Corolla length	Stigma protrusion
3.0	7.3	0.5
2.9	8.8	-0.4
3.2	8.4	-0.2
3.4	9.2	0.2
2.8	7.3	0.1
3.0	7.9	1.0
2.7	9.1	-0.3
2.3	7.7	0.3
3.0	7.7	0.5

Measurements are from greenhouse studies by Chabert and Mallinger at the University of Florida.



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FLOWER SHAPE AND BEE VISITATION

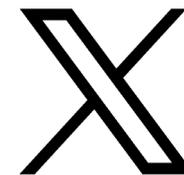
The shape of blueberry flowers varies by cultivar and can influence how easily a bee may access nectar and pollen. Key features of the flower shape, such as the diameter of the flower opening (corolla width), the depth of the flower (corolla length), and the extent that the stigma protrudes beyond the flower opening can either make the flower easier or harder for bees to access. Bees that have difficulty accessing a flower may be less likely to visit the variety, making it difficult to pollinate for some bee species with larger heads and/or smaller tongues.

In addition to flower morphology, the objective of this upcoming guide is to describe blueberry pollination and factors that promote pollination success in open-field and protected culture. We will review how managed and wild pollinators contribute to pollination and how to aid their activity and health. For more information and to stay tuned on the release of this guide, check out the resources below.

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