

Updated on April 29, 2022 by Laura Johnson, Pollinator Support Specialist

*What do you get when you order bumble bees in the northeast? A weather resistant box with sugar water and one to four colonies of bees, depending on size ordered. A quad box will weigh about 26 lbs. The commonly sold species in the east is *Bombus impatiens*, also known as the Common Eastern Bumble Bee (pictured on left*

[Cropking](#), [Koppert](#), and [BioBest](#) (distributed in the US by [Plant Products](#)). There may be others, so doing a bit of research will help diversify your options.

Number of colonies per acre? Generally, the recommendation is 3-4 colonies per acre for northern highbush blueberries if no other commercial bees are being used. This could be variable depending on your wild pollinator population strength and you may decide to adjust accordingly.

Where and when should I place my newly arrived bumble bee colony?

Place colonies throughout the crop field and well away from honey bee hives if you have any in the area. Bumble bee colonies should be spaced throughout fields not solely placed on field margins¹. Bumble bees can be placed in fields just before bloom or, ideally, at 5% bloom and before 25% of full bloom to optimize crop attractiveness and foraging activity in the target crop²

How do I p

1. Phillips, B., (2019, April 12). *Current Honey bee and Bumble Bee Stocking Information*. Michigan State University.