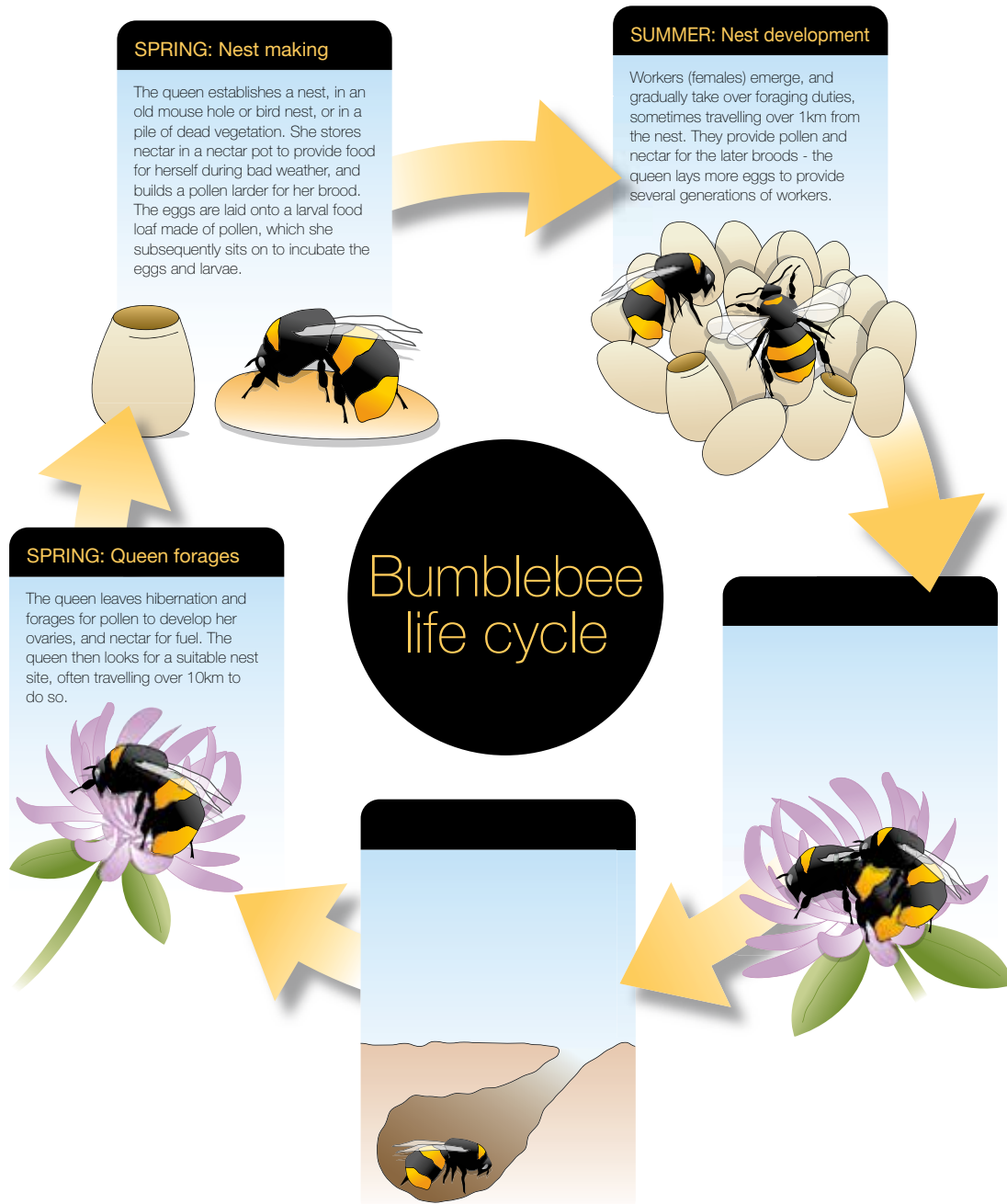




The Operation Pollinator seed mix provides a succession of flowering plants to deliver a continuous source of pollen and nectar for pollinators.

Farmers enrolled in the program will get a provision of clean, high-quality commercial seed, free of noxious weed species to establish an Operation Pollinator habitat.



How to select an Operation Pollinator site on the farm

Areas on the farm identified as potential Operation Pollinator habitat include:

- Lower-productivity lands (not too saline or sensitive to drought)
- Areas adjacent to hedgerows and other ecologically sensitive areas (e.g.s. ponds, drainage ditches, other riparian areas)
- Sites with decent drainage, adequate soil fertility, and suitable sun exposure
- Cut-outs such as corners of fields



Operation Pollinator seed mix

One of the major benefits of the Operation Pollinator mix is the provision of high-quality nutrition, including the protein-dense pollen of legumes which can aid in the development of bee larvae.

In addition to being diverse and nutritious for pollinators, the mix delivers agronomic benefits. The legumes provide their own nitrogen by fixing it from the air while also providing some to their non-nitrogen-fixing neighbours. The mix also provides food to micro-organisms that improve soil health. Many of these plants are used as cover crops and as green manure crops, protecting the land from soil erosion, and adding organic matter to the soil. All of the plants (except timothy) are known to bloom for lengthy periods, and the perennials will continue to bloom throughout the season with good management practices.

Establishing perennial pollinator plantings may also help other beneficial insects, supporting greater biodiversity, and potentially enhancing natural pest control.