

Violet Miner Bee



*Andrena
violae*

The Spring Fling:

- **Specialist Pollinator:** *Andrena violae* primarily collects pollen from violets (genus *Viola*), making it an important early spring specialist.
- **Early Spring Activity:** This bee emerges in early spring, often timed with the bloom of its preferred host plants.
- **Ground-Nesting Behavior:** Like other miner bees, it nests in the ground and leads a solitary lifestyle, with each female digging and provisioning her own nest.
- **Fast but Fleeting:** Violet miner bees have a short adult life span—typically just a few weeks—making their seasonal appearance a brief but vital part of the spring ecosystem.
- **Gentle Nature:** Despite being bees, *Andrena violae* are non-aggressive and rarely sting, making them safe and beneficial garden visitors.

2025 Yates County Pollinator of the Year