

HOW TO PREVENT WASPS

From nesting around your structure

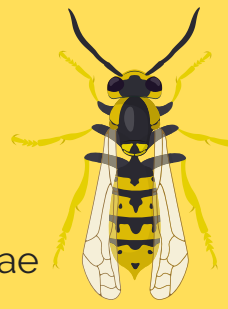
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Bee

Wasps have black or brown bodies with yellow or white markings

- When compared to bees, wasps are shiny and hairless
- Both adult bees and wasps feed on nectar from flowers
- Bees feed their larvae pollen, while wasps feed their larvae insects like caterpillars



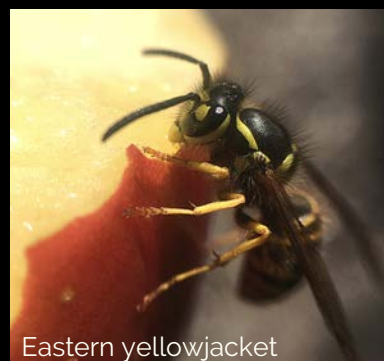
Wasp



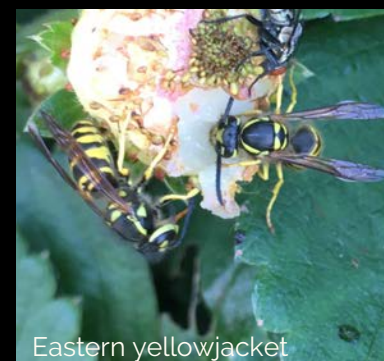
European paper wasp



Northern paper wasp



Eastern yellowjacket



Eastern yellowjacket

Wasps are social insects that build nests in sheltered areas

- Fertilized queens become active in spring after overwintering in a protected area
- A single queen looks for a place to build a paper nest
- Nests start small, but by late summer may have hundreds of workers that will sting to defend the nest
- Wasps have annual colonies, so all nests are abandoned before winter

Paper wasps or umbrella wasps

- Nest is a single tier of open cells suspended by a stalk
- Usually constructed under eaves, around window and door frames, deck railings, fencing, picnic tables, inside bird houses, electrical boxes, playground structures, and dense vegetation



Yellowjackets and hornets

- Nests consists of several tiers of cells enclosed in a paper envelope
- Nests may be:
 - Underground in an abandoned rodent burrow
 - Hidden in a wall void, hollow tree or space
 - An aerial nest under eaves or protected overhang or suspended from tree branches

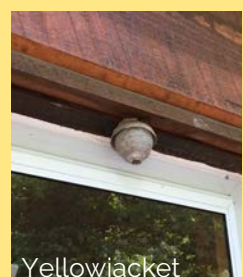


Scout your property early in the spring

- Get out and walk around your buildings and look up
- Watch for a wasps returning to the same spot
- Screen and seal up openings into buildings
- Knock down any early nests
- Use fly swatter to kill female wasp
- Inspect weekly and repeat



Paper wasp



Yellowjacket



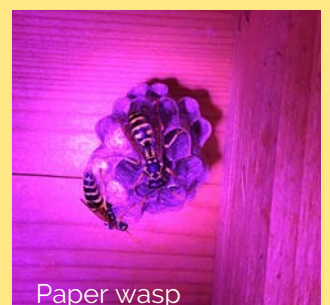
Yellowjacket

Prevent stings by managing food and trash

- Keep food and beverages covered when dining outdoors
- Yellowjackets like meat early in the season and sweets later in the summer
- Use tight-fitting lids for outdoor garbage
- Dress appropriately for yardwork (i.e. gloves, boots, long-sleeves)

Treating a nest with labelled wasp spray

- Read and follow instructions on pesticide label
- Treat after dark or early morning when workers are in nest
- Wear protective clothing
- Use red flashlight because wasps cannot see red
- Treat the nest and leave area



Paper wasp



Yellowjacket

When to call a professional

- If the nest is in a high-traffic area or inaccessible
- If it is late in the season and the nest is very large
- If there are humans with life-threatening allergies