

# A Bug's Life

# Carpenter bee

*Xylocopa virginica*

## Fun facts

- Resemble bumble bee
- Does not eat wood
- Excavate nests in structural wood like sheds, benches and boards
- Most active May through July
- Important pollinators of flowers
- 1 generation per year

## Identification

Damage: Perfect 1/2" diameter round holes in wood, yellow frass

Female: 7/8" long, mostly black with yellow hair on thorax, abdomen is shiny and hairless

Male: Resemble females but have yellow/white face, which can be seen when they hover near nesting site

## Management

- Not a sting risk, but avoid swatting or handling bees
- Chemical treatment consists of treating each hole with insecticidal dust or spray
- Fill holes with dowel or aluminum foil, and seal with wood putty to prevent reuse and overwintering



Photos: J. Green