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

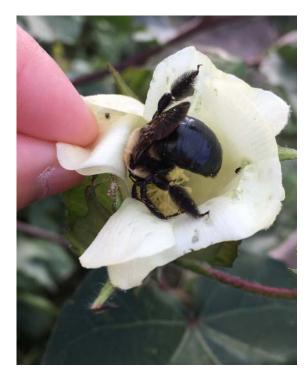
Identification

Damage: Perfect 1/2" diameter round holes in wood, yellow frass Female: 7/8" long, mostly back 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







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