

A Bug's Life

Great digger wasps

Great golden digger wasp - *Sphex ichneumoneus*, Great black wasp - *Sphex pensylvanicus*

Fun facts

- Solitary, thread-waisted wasps
- Pollinators that feed on nectar July and August
- Females excavate nests in loose soil by vibrating flight muscles
- Hunt various species of katydids to feed larvae, great golden digger wasp also hunts crickets

Identification

Large wasps, 3/4" to 7/8" long, wings folded over abdomen at rest

Great golden digger wasp: yellow face, golden hairs on head and thorax, orange legs and part of abdomen, tip of abdomen is black

Great black wasp: Dull black body, iridescent blue wings

Management

- No management required
- Females have stingers, but are not aggressive while feeding on flowers and do not defend the nests



Photos: J. Green