

How to deal with yellowjackets

Yellowjackets are social wasps that build their nests in ground holes, wall voids, inside of shrubs, in or on the branches of trees, and in retaining walls

About 1/2 inch long



People often confuse yellowjackets and honey bees

Yellow
Less Hairy
Nest in ground



Honey bee

Golden
Generally smaller
Much hairier
Rarely found in soil



Yellowjackets have different food preferences throughout the year



In the spring, when colony is small they eat protein. Typically prey on caterpillars but will eat roadkill or garbage too!



In late summer/autumn they switch to carbohydrate-heavy foods like fruit, pop, and sugary items.

How to control yellowjackets

Yellowjackets are more aggressive as the season progresses. This is because they are producing queens that will overwinter and build new colonies next year.

If they are exiting and entering a hole, do not plug the hole!

Commercially available wasp/hornet sprays containing pyrethrins/synthetic pyrethroids are effective if the nest is saturated. Some aerosol products can be used 20ft+ distance from nest.

If you choose to control these wasps:

1. Treat at night, dusk or when the sun sets when they are not actively foraging.
2. Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and pants. Plan an escape route just in case.
3. If you're using a flashlight, cover with red cellophane or use a red light so they can't see you coming.

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