



WASPS & HORNETS

Management of stinging insects is important because some people have severe reactions.

Description

Yellow jacket wasps, hornets, and other paper wasps can be easily identified by the tightly constricted region between the thorax and abdomen. While they have four wings, only two wings may be visible from a distance. At the tip of their abdomen there is a stinger capable of delivering a potent sting



Location

Paper wasps generally construct elaborate paper nests that can be found along the eaves of buildings and other sheltered areas. These wasps are attracted to food and food odors, so they are often found foraging around trash containers and other areas where food is present.



Life Cycle

Eggs are laid singly by the queen into cells of the nest and hatch into legless grub-like larvae. Sterile worker wasps (similar to the queen) assist in building the nest, feeding the young, and defending the nest. In the fall, mated female offspring of the queen seek overwintering sites while the remainder of the colony dies.

Monitoring

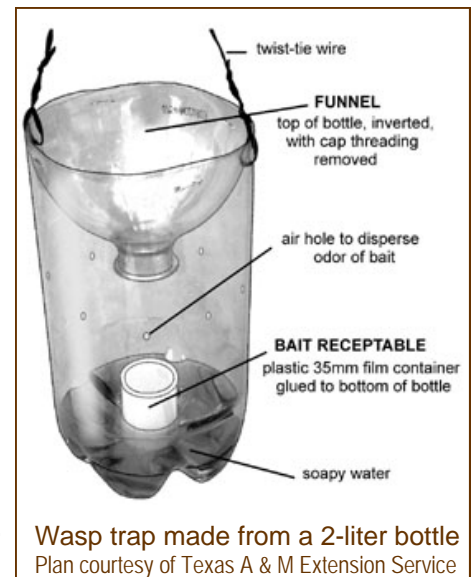
If large numbers of wasps appear in areas frequented by children, search the yard for nests. Look for nests in the ground (often under rock piles or bushes), among the branches of trees or shrubs, under eaves, in openings of swing sets, in meter boxes, and inside walls.

Cultural Methods

Use good outdoor sanitation practices to eliminate the lure of food odors.

Seal off openings in structures, swingsets, pipes, and other items to prevent wasps from building nests inside cavities accessed by those openings.

Use traps to catch wasps. When the wasps are captured, set the trap in the freezer to kill the wasps. After wasps are dead, empty the trap.



Pesticides

Use a wasp and hornet spray that will squirt a stream up to 20 feet away on nests. The best time for treatment is after dark when all of the wasps are home in the nest. Once the nest is eliminated, use cultural methods to help prevent reoccurrences.

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