

WASPS



Wasps have narrow waist with slender bodies, cylindrical legs, and appear shiny with smooth skin. The most common wasps encountered by people are: Yellowjackets, baldfaced hornets, and paper wasps.

Wasps only sting to defend their colony &/themselves. This involves an injection of a protein venom causing pain and sometimes other reactions. Wasps, have the ability to, sting multiple times because they are able to pull out their stinger without injury to them self. If stung by a wasp the stinger will not be left behind. Wasp venom differs from bee venom so having a severe reaction to one species does not mean you'll have a severe reaction to the other. Most individuals will have a mild reaction to wasp stings.

Mild reactions symptoms include: itching, burning, redness that may last up to a week.

Local mild reactions can be treated with ice or

commercial ointments that help relive itching & pain.

Allergic reactions include: swelling away from initial site, hives, rash, headaches, & stomach upset. This type of reaction can be treated with an antihistamine.

Severe allergic reactions consists of: fainting, difficulty in breathing, swelling, blockage of the throat causing anaphylactic shock within minutes of the incident. These symptoms call for immediate medical attention. Individuals who known they are severely allergic should carry an epi-pen at all times.

Almost every pest insect has at least one wasp species that preys upon it making wasps critical to natural control. Wasp are

generally categorized as one group to the untrained eye and are often mistakenly called "bees". Although social wasps, like bees, live in colonies maintained by workers, and ruled by queens, they behave & look differently. It is important to distinguish between the two because different methods may be necessary to control them if & when they become a nuisance. Wasps are considered to be a pest due to their ability to sting and their disrupting behavior at outdoor activities (usually in autumn). However, like bees, wasps are beneficial insects that mostly prey on other pest insects.

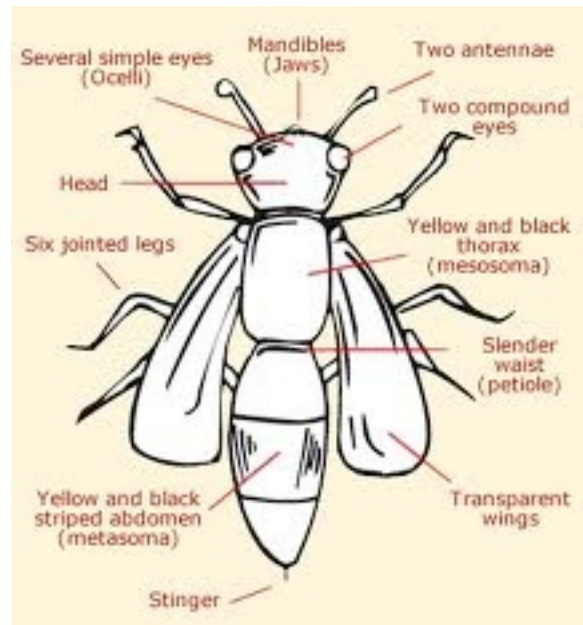
Characteristics

- Usually two pairs of wings except in some species
- A stinger or **ovipositor**, this derives from the ovipositor (a female sex organ) making is present only in females.
- Few or no hairs (unlike the common honey bees).
- Typically terrestrial; only a few specialized parasitic groups are aquatic.
- Mostly predators on other terrestrial insects;

Control

The first step in wasp or bee control is to correctly identify the insect and locate its nesting site. An experienced pest control service may provide wasp or bee control service or you can use the following information to attempt to control them yourself.

It is unnecessary to control wasps and their nest's in late fall due to upcoming freezing temperatures that will eradicate the wasp. It is also unnecessary to eradicate wasps nest that are **not** located near homes or areas of human activity. Wasp nests that are near homes/ human activity can pose potential problems and should be managed safely. Dusk (early evening) is best time to control wasp nest's. This is when wasps are less active. Apply ready-to-use "hornet and wasp" spray according to the directions on the label. If there is no activity observed the following day then extermination was successful. If there are live wasps are observed the following day then



repeat the treatment in three-day intervals or according to directions on the label until wasps are dead. For yellowjackets (wasps that nest in the ground) try pouring a soapy water solution in the entrance of the nest. Several different soaps should work (ie: laundry, dish, or hand soap). If soap doesn't work pour insecticides, which are acceptable for soil & lawn use, into the entrance of the nest. If the problem still persists or if the nest is concealed it is recommended to call a professional.