

STINGING ARTHROPODS AROUND HOMES & LANDSCAPES

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Africanized honey bees



European honey bees







MUD DAUBER WASPS

- Mud Daubers may become a nuisance when they construct mud nests in eaves, attics, garages, patios, etc.
- They are considered nuisance pests since nests are not defended and stings are rare.
- Mud Daubers are solitary wasps and are not aggressive.
- Chemical control is rarely needed.

MUD DAUBER WASPS

■ IDENTIFICATION

- The black and yellow mud dauber is 1 - 1 1/4 inches long and “*thread-waisted*.” They are often seen around wet areas digging up balls of mud for nest building.
- The blue mud dauber is 1/4 - 3/4 inch, metallic blue to blackish, with blue wings and ‘*thread-waisted*.’”







MUD DAUBER WASPS

■ BIOLOGY

- Female mud daubers paralyze spiders, pack them in the nest cells until full, lay one egg in the cell, then seal the cell. Pupation occurs inside the cell after overwintering in the cell.







MUD DAUBER WASPS

CONTROL

- Nests can be treated and/or scraped down. Early cool mornings or night are the best times for control. In the winter, nest can be safely removed without treating.

PAPER WASPS

- Paper wasps may become nuisance when nesting around homes and other structures where people live, work or play.
- Although considered beneficial to agriculture, it is their painful stinging ability that causes fear.
- Paper wasps are social wasps and the stinging workers do not survive the winter.

PAPER WASPS

☰ IDENTIFICATION

- Paper wasps are 1/4 - 1/2 inch long, brown with orange/yellow markings and long legs that hang down as they fly.
- They are “*thread-waisted.*”



PAPER WASPS

BIOLOGY

- Paper wasps are most active from early spring until late summer.
- There is no worker caste and each female is potentially a queen.
- One female becomes dominate and assumes the role of queen and is cared for by the others.
- Colonies endure only for a single season. Mated queens overwinter in protected areas then emerge in the spring and start building new nests.



PAPER WASPS

CONTROL

- Wasp Freeze can be effective on paper wasps.
- Early morning or late night nest removal.
- Paper wasps nests should always be removed to prevent secondary carpet beetle infestations.



YELLOWJACKET WASPS

- Yellowjacket wasps often become a nuisance, especially from about mid July through October.
- During this time they build up in large numbers and scavenge for human food.
- Yellowjacket wasps can be very disruptive at outdoor events and gatherings.
- Although considered quite beneficial to agriculture, their boldness and painful stinging ability cause concern.
- Stinging workers do not survive the winter and the same nest is not reused.
- Yellowjackets are social wasps.

YELLOW JACKET WASPS

IDENTIFICATION

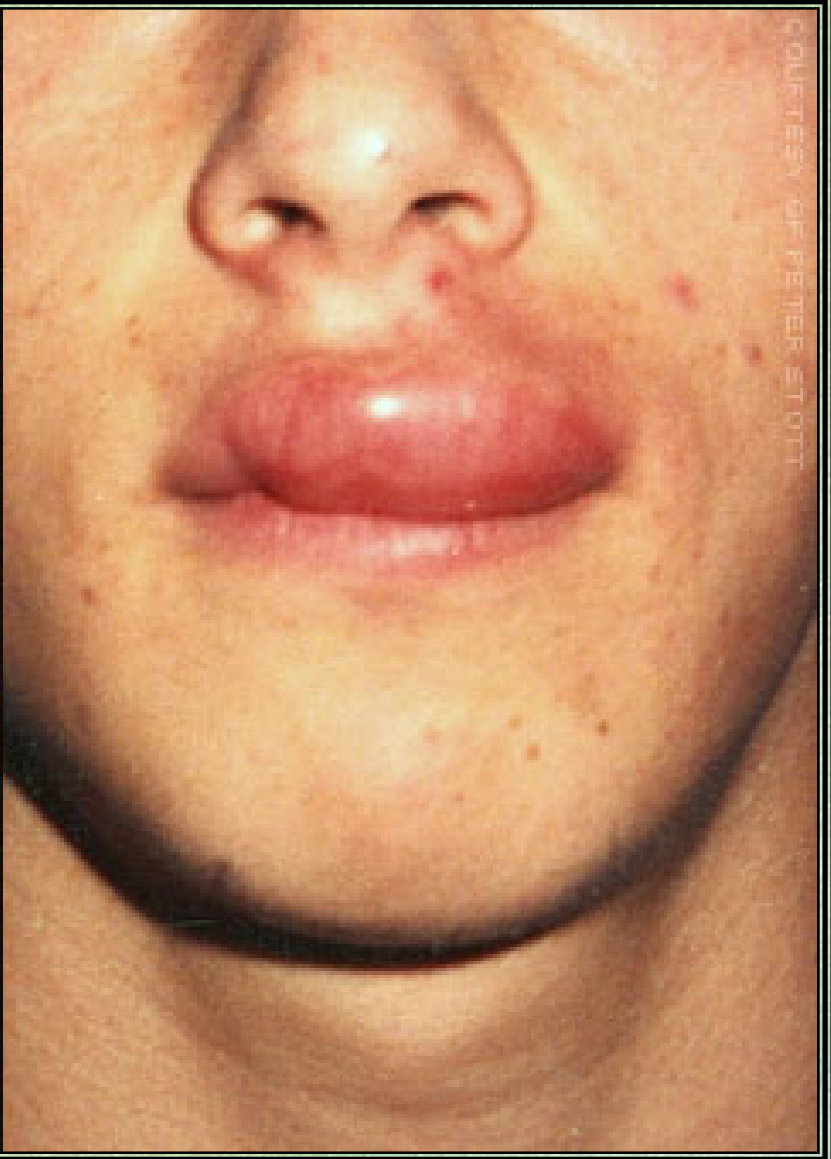
- Yellowjacket wasp workers are about 1/2 inch long, short and blocky.
- They have alternating black and yellow bands on the abdomen.
- The queen looks similar but is larger, about 3/4 inch long.
- Yellowjackets, in contrast to honey bees, are not covered with tan-brown hair on their bodies.











COURTESY OF PETER STOTT



COURTESY OF JK KELLER

YELLOWJACKET WASPS

BIOLOGY

- Yellowjackets are social wasps living in colonies containing workers, queens and males.
- Normally, only inseminated queens overwinter.
- Queens emerge during the warm days of late April or May and build a small paper nest in which eggs are laid.
- After eggs hatch from the 30 to 50 brood cells, the queen feeds the larvae.
- The larvae pupate, emerging as small infertile female workers.
- The workers expand the nest and the queens stay in the nest laying eggs.
- Peak size with 5,000 to 15,000 wasps is reached in

Queen and male mate



Fall: Colony declines, workers begin to die off, nest decomposes



Heavy reproduction phase

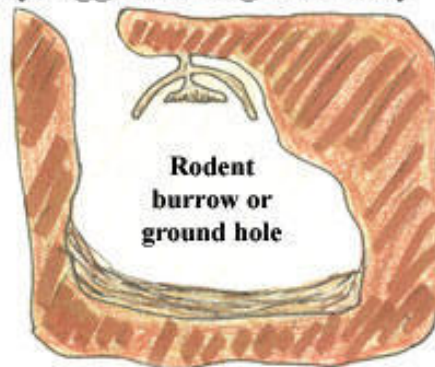
**Late summer:
Peak of worker
population, workers
become nuisance
scavengers**



**Beginning of cycle:
Fertilized queen overwinters
in sheltered location**



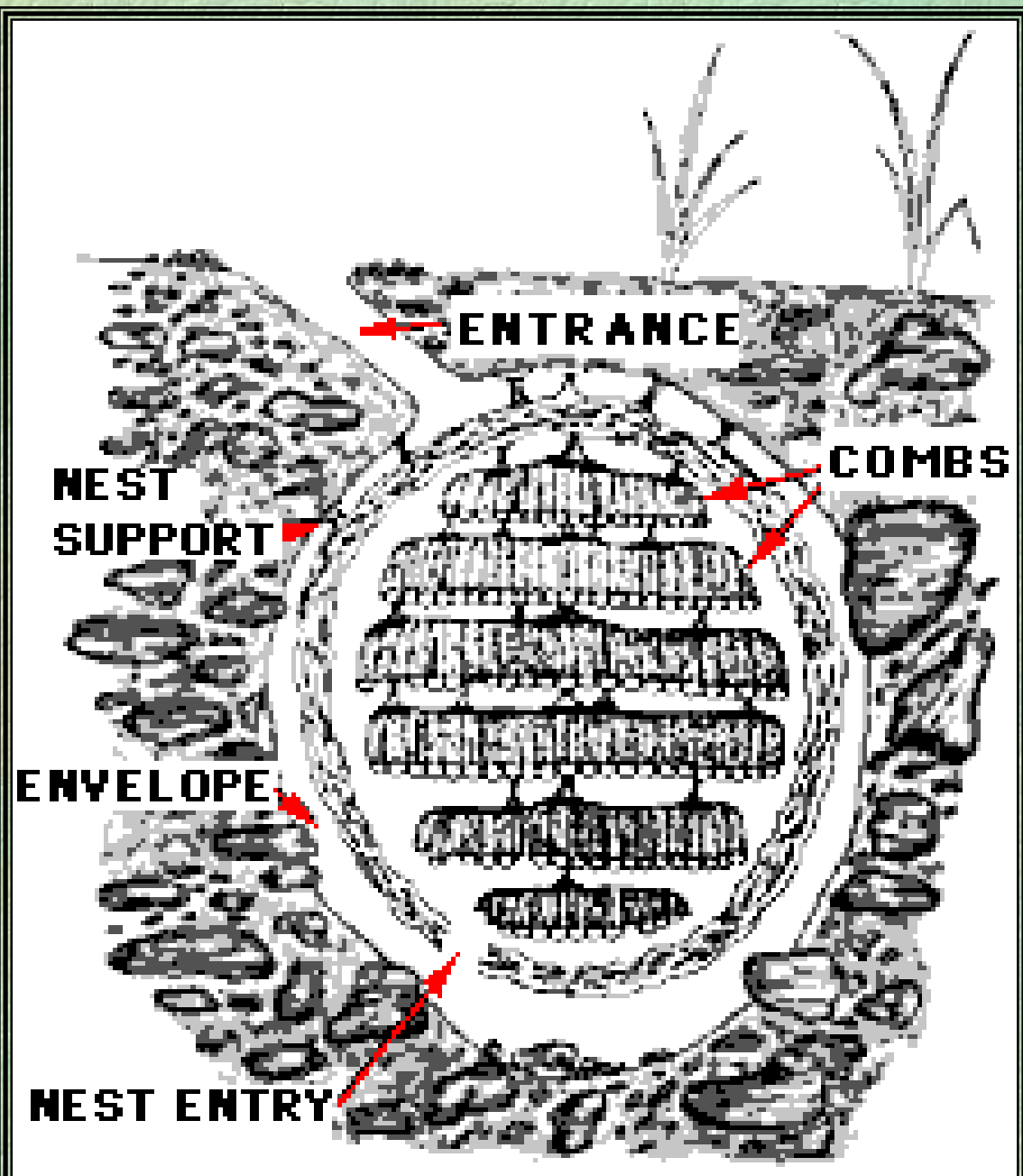
**Spring: Queen establishes nest,
lays eggs and begins colony**



First workers emerge



**Summer:
Colony development phase,
workers expand nest, queen
specializes in egg production**









YELLOWJACKET WASPS

CONTROL

► Sanitation

- Good sanitation is most important.
- Keep refuse in tightly sealed containers with tight-fitting trash can lids.
- Cleaning of dumpsters and garbage containers daily may be required at certain times of the year.
- When eating outside, keep food covered until eaten.
- Cover soft drinks.
- Any scent of food caused by outdoor eating or cooking can attract wasps.
- Move pet food dishes inside.
- Pick fruit as soon as ripe.
- Pick up and dispose of fallen fruit rotting on the ground.

YELLOWJACKET WASPS

CONTROL

► **Traps**

- Traps do not eliminate yellowjacket nests.
- Traps can be effective in controlling the number of wasps in an area.
- Trap early in the season to catch the queens.
- Increase trapping throughout the season.
- Trap the entire season.
- Proper trap placement is important to protect an area.
- Bait selection is important.



Skone





YELLOWJACKET WASPS

CONTROL

► Insecticides

- Finding the nest is difficult.
- Dust formulations are probably best.
- Aerosols can be effective.
- Baiting with insecticides.

