

Paper Wasp

Size: Adults are 3/4 – 1" long.

Description:

- Colours are mostly yellow and black with some species golden brown to dark brown.
- Very long legs with waist to abdomen.
- Appearance can be mistaken for aggressive Yellow Jacket Wasps, but open nest structure of the paper wasp easily confirms difference
- Stinger is present.



Biology and Habits: Paper Wasps are semi-social wasps. Seasonal cycle begins with one overwintering-mated female emerging in late April – early May to establish nest.

Paper wasp nests are constructed in sheltered areas out of the wind and rain. Each open cell chamber of this new nest contains an egg then larvae that the queens feeds. As the larvae develop the queen deposits several spiders or insects with each larvae and covers over. The larvae feeds on this food source, goes into a pupae stage and emerges as an adult in early summer.

The young adults emerging daily contribute to the tasks of assisting the queen, expanding the nest, caring for larvae, food gathering and protecting the nest.

In late summer all production stops and the nest activity declines. By late fall the mated females prepare to overwinter and all other wasps perish.

Make note these semi-social wasps are not aggressive like the social wasps such as the Yellow Jacket or Bald Faced Hornets. Paper Wasps can be approached very closely and will rarely react and become aggressive and sting, unless you touch their nest.



Control: Again, this is a beneficial insect, consuming many spiders and insects. If their nest locations are not a threat to you and your family we suggest you let them go through their annual cycles unharmed. Then in the fall use a broom or pole and knockdown the paper nests.

If nest elimination is necessary we use a variety of different treatment methods. Depending on the nest location and surrounding conditions, we sometimes dust, liquid spray applications or aerosol treatments to ensure safety, rapid knockdown and elimination.

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