

Yellow Jacket

IDENTIFICATION

Yellow jackets are approximately 5/8 to 1 inch in length. They are most distinguishable by their black and yellow color and definite waist.



HABITS

Like all wasps, yellow jackets prey on a wide variety of grubs and nectar from flowers. However, yellow jackets forage for food consumed or discarded by people including sweets and meats. In the late summer, yellow jacket colonies are at their largest size which can contain thousands of workers! If disturbed, yellow jackets will aggressively defend their colony by stinging. For allergic individuals, stings may cause serious reactions.

CONTROL

Destruction of yellow jackets in and around areas is advised to reduce the possibility of a dangerous sting. Nests should be located during the day when workers are coming and going to easily mark the nest. Returning late at night with an appropriate insecticide

to treat the nest. Directly treating the colony is the most effective way to take care of a nest. Aerosol insecticides work well because they flow deep in the colony while dust insecticides have a longer lasting effect. Continue to observe the nest in the following days and repeat treatment to eliminate the yellow jackets that were out of the nests during initial treatment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ALTERATIONS

Effective alterations that will help prevent yellow jackets include sanitation and eliminating food source. This includes limiting the amount of food left out to attract them as well as keeping trash cans closed at all times and regularly emptying and cleaning them. Aerosol insecticides can be used to remove present yellow jackets when cleaning or emptying trash cans. Traps can also be helpful to reduce foraging yellow jackets around picnic and patio areas.

PROVIDED SERVICES

Products are available at Speed Exterminating for DIY treatment or appointments can be scheduled with a licensed service technician.

For more information:
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