Managing Stinging Wasps, Bees and Hornets

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Several types of stinging wasps, bees and hornets cause problems in and around the home. The public is encouraged to conserve pollinators, many of which are bees and wasps, but some are stinging insects and pose a serious risk to people and pets. They build their nests in wall voids, in the ground

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When to spray:

Spray the nest in the late evening just before dark. Most of the colony inhabitants have returned to the nest by then, but you can still see well enough to aim the spray in the right place. You can also spray it very early in the morning before they have left the nest to forage. Select a cool day if possible because bees and wasps are less active at lower temperatures. Do not spray when it is windy as it can blow into your face or on you. Do not spray when it is raining, and do not allow the spray to enter a body of water (brook, pond, stream, etc.) as the insecticides can be toxic to fish and other water-dwelling organisms. The number of individuals in a colony increases over time and wasps and hornets become more aggressive and defensive as the season progresses. Therefore, it is best to treat the nest early in the season.

How to spray:

Read the product label before spraying and follow the instructions completely. Check where the nozzle opening is and direct the spray away from yourself or others. If you are spraying on the house, it may be wise to spray a small area to ensure the produc š } •v[š u P šZ •]]vP X are designed to disperse the insecticide for a distance of 10-20 ft. Therefore, it is best to stand as far away as you can and still apply the pesticide to the colony entrance. Aim the insecticide spray directly at the entry hole of the nest. You may also want to spray around the hole because wasps entering or exiting will come in contact with the insecticide and usually die. Spray the nest for 5-10 seconds and then walk Á Ç X } v [š Do not turn on lights, shine a flashlight or turn on head lights of a car around the nest because wasps will be attracted to the light. If the entrance to the colony is impossible to access because it is hidden behind the wall, foaming products may be effective at getting into the area where the insects enter. However, multiple sprays may be needed over several days to kill them.

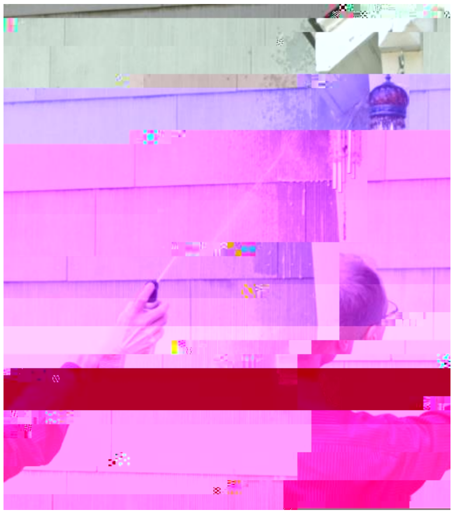
If you are treating a nest within a wall void, be aware that the spray may drive the insects out and into the house. Watch out for an influx of wasps in the home.

How to evaluate success:

Check the area around the nest on a warm sunny day for 3-5 days after spraying for signs of activity. /(Ç } µ } v [š • bees or wasps entering, it is likely they have been killed. However, you may notice there are a few still alive, which will require you to spray it again.

How to remove the nest:

If the nest is outside, there is no need to remove it. It will decompose naturally over the winter. However, if you want it gone, when there has been no sign of wasp/hornet activity for at least 1 week, it is probably safe to remove the nest. Pyrethroid pesticides breakdown quickly in sunlight and rain. Therefore, touching it one week after treatment is likely not a hazard. To be on the safe side wear gloves when removing the nest. If the nest was in a wall void, you may need to extract it. Old wasp nests can attract mice and dermestid beetles, which feed on the dead insects, and could infest the home.



Spraying from a distance in a wall void.

Useful websites:

- https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/controlling-bald-faced-hornets-and-yellow-jackets-in-and-around-structures
- https://extension.psu.edu/getting-rid-of-paper-wasps-and-yellow-jackets
- https://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/baldfaced-hornet
- https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/european-hornets
- https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-hornet-wasp-spray/

Images included herein were obtained from various websites

IMPORTANT NOTE:
Always read the label before using any pesticide, whether it is an organic or chemical produ

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