



## Tips for Managing Yellow Jackets

### Description

- About ½ inch long.
- Alternating black and yellow stripes.
- Less hairy than bees.
- Smokey colored wings.

### Prevention

- Keep food (including pet food) and beverages covered when eating outdoors.
- Store wastes in tightly sealed garbage cans.
- Frequently clean waste containers.
- Seal off openings in outside walls, playground structures, fences, pipes, meter boxes, etc.

### Management

- Indoors: Use a flyswatter. Do not handle stunned or dead wasps with bare hands as the stinger may be exposed.
- Outdoors: Avoid and protect these beneficial insects, unless they are in an area near humans and pets.
- Keep people away from known nest locations, if possible, by roping off the nest area.
- Removing underground or inaccessible wasp nests is not practical. If a nest must be removed, hire a professional.



**CAUTION** – Sprays do not guarantee that all wasps will be killed. Stings are likely while spraying or removing nests and are also possible the next day from partially intoxicated wasps.

If you insist on removing nests or trapping wasps yourself:

- Cover yourself with protective clothing.
- Use baited traps specifically designed for trapping wasps.
- Remove the nest early in the season.
- Spray the nest with an insecticide labeled for that use.
- Spray the nest at night, but keep in mind some wasps may still be hanging out.

### **Further Management Options**

Contact the Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office (1-800-287-0279), your county Extension office, or visit <http://www.gotpests.org/>.

**Photo credits:** Adult: Johnny N. Dell, Bugwood.org; Nest: Edward L. Manigault, Clemson University Donated Collection, Bugwood.org.

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<http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/ipmcouncil>

*Promoting least risk pest control for  
a greener environment*

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