

Yellowjackets

QUICK STATS:



Color:

Abdomen usually black and yellow patterned similar to bands



Shape:

Wasp-like



Size:

$\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long



Region:

Found throughout the U.S.



Yellowjackets



Vespula spp.

OVERVIEW:

There are several species of yellowjackets. These flying insects typically have a yellow and black head/face and patterned abdomen. Many say that the pattern resembles stripes. The abdomen pattern can help an entomologist or pest professional identify specific types of yellowjackets.

HABITS:

Yellowjackets are social insects that live in nests or colonies. They usually nest in the ground or in cavernous areas such as eaves and attics. Yellowjackets can be found anywhere humans can be found. They feed on sweets and proteins and are commonly attracted to trash and recycling bins. Yellowjackets are most active in the late summer and early autumn when a colony is at its peak.

THREATS:

Yellowjackets' stings pose significant health threats to humans. They are territorial and will sting if their nest is threatened. Yellowjackets may sting repeatedly and can cause allergic reactions.

PREVENTION:

- Wear shoes, especially in grassy areas.
- Remove garbage frequently and keep trashcans covered.
- Do not swat at a yellowjacket, as it increases the likelihood of an aggressive reaction.
- Avoid wearing sweet-smelling perfumes.
- Ensure all doors and windows in your home have screens that are in good condition.
- Seek immediate medical attention if stung, as reactions can be severe.
- If you find a yellowjacket nest on your home or in your property, contact a licensed pest professional.

DID YOU KNOW? Yellowjackets...

- and other stinging insects send more than 500,000 people to the emergency room each year.
- live in colonies with up to 4,000 workers.
- build paper carton nests out of chewed up cellulose.

For more information, visit PESTWORLD.org

