

# WASPS

## Description

- Size 14mm (½ inch) (hornet is larger).
- Colour brightly banded in yellow and black (hornet is yellow brown only).

## Habitat

Almost anywhere. Nests may be made in the ground, roof spaces or sometimes hanging freely from tree branches or rafters.

## Life Style

The queen wasp emerges from hibernation in the spring and makes a nest. Eggs are laid by the queen and when the grubs emerge she feeds them until they become adult worker wasps. Towards the end of the summer new queen wasps are produced. These will fly and will then hibernate until the following spring. All the other wasps will die by the onset of winter. Large fully developed wasps nests may contain several thousand individuals.

## Food

For most of the year the wasp is not a pest as it collects insects to feed the young grubs. Only in late summer when it turns its attention to fruit and sweet substances may it become a nuisance.

## Control

### Nest Destruction

If the wasps nest is in such a position that it causes a nuisance e.g. near a doorway, it can usually be effectively treated with a wasp destroying powder. These powders can be obtained from garden centres and chemists.

It is advisable to leave the treatment of a nest until late evening or a cool day. The entrance to the nest is usually obvious. The powder should be puffed into the entrance hole then the nest left alone. The wasps will often swarm around for a couple of hours but after this time will slowly die off.

Nests are usually only occupied for one season and therefore not likely to become active again the following year.

### Screening

If it is a question of keeping wasps out of kitchens, then the only certain way is by screening the windows with a mesh, preferably of nylon or other similar material.

### Quick knock-down

If a quick knock-down is required, then use pyrethrin sprays from a hand aerosol dispenser. These can be obtained from most chemists and garden centres.

### Electrocution

If alternative sources of light are not too strong then electrocuting units based on the attraction of ultra-violet light are effective, and can be purchased or rented from pest control firms.

### Small Scale Control

Finally, the old fashioned wasp bait may be of use on a small scale. This is merely a small amount of diluted fermenting jam in a jam jar to which a few drops of detergent have been added, the latter helps the wasps to drown quickly

# BEEES

Most bees are actually solitary insects, each female excavating or constructing a small nest often in the ground and laying a few eggs in it. The nests are always stocked with food, pollen and nectar for the bees.

Because the Larvae are always surrounded by food and do not need to move, they are all legless.

## **Social Bees**

These insects include the honey bee and the bumblebee, all of which make their nests with wax from their own bodies. Honey bee colonies are perennial, but bumblebee colonies last for just one season: young mated queens hibernate and begin new colonies in the spring. The social bees all have long tongues and can obtain nectar from deep-throated flowers. They carry pollen on their hind legs, held by stiff hairs which form the pollen baskets.

## **Control**

The control of bees by the use of insecticides is strictly prohibited. Established honey bee colonies may be removed by registered bee-keepers. The names and addresses of bee-keepers can be obtained from the office of the Environmental Health (Housing).

## ***HEALTH AND HYGIENE SIGNIFICANCE***

Bees and wasps are not regarded as traditional public health pests. They are garden pests which, under normal circumstances, do not harm anyone.

Occasionally, they may come into conflict with people when nesting sites or feeding patterns are disturbed.

If this occurs they may become aggressive.

If you are aware of the presence of wasps or bees in large numbers within your or adjoining properties, then either take the control measures suggested or leave them alone.