

CONTROL

The European wasp is a serious pest in Australia. Any colonies which are found must be eradicated. Detection of the wasps depends on reports by members of the public.

Possible sites include eaves or wall cavities and roof voids of buildings. In gardens, the nest can be concealed underground.



Suspected European wasp nests should be reported to the European Wasp Hotline 02 6258 5551.



Do not attempt to treat a European wasp nest yourself, always engage a professional pest controller.

The European wasp (*Vespula germanica*) is an established pest on the east coast of Australia, South Australia and Tasmania.

The European wasp is an aggressive stinging insect.

For identification, advice and nest reporting on public or residential land, please contact

The European Wasp Hotline 02 6258 5551

FIRST AID

If stung, apply a cold pack to reduce the swelling. Stings to the face or neck or multiple stings may lead to severe swelling or an allergic reaction. If this occurs and the person has difficulty breathing call an ambulance "000". If in doubt, seek immediate medical advice.



eWasp Follow us    

Acknowledgments
NSW Department of Primary Industries.



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

GET TO KNOW THE EUROPEAN WASP

Vespula germanica

EUROPEAN WASP HOTLINE

02 6258 5551

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THE EUROPEAN WASP

Vespula germanica

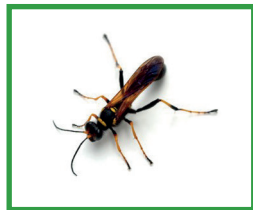
European wasps are 15mm in length with bright yellow and black stripes. They have a solid oval build (similar to a honey bee) and can be distinguished from paper wasps via their black antennae and bright yellow legs. European wasps are frequently confused with paper wasps.

WASP & BEE IDENTIFICATION



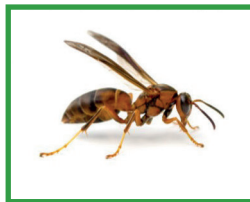
European wasp

Asian paper wasp



Mud-dauber wasp

Native paper wasp



European honey bee

PEST

European wasps are scavengers. They are attracted to sweet foods and meat and are commonly a nuisance at outdoor eating venues and barbeques.

If left alone, the European wasp is not aggressive to humans or other animals. If a European wasp nest is aggravated they may sting. Unlike bees, a European wasp can sting multiple times.

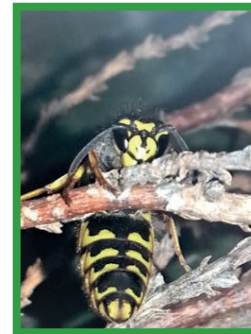
If a nest is disturbed, the wasps release a chemical which triggers the colony to defend the nest and attack the threat in large numbers.

COLONY BEHAVIOUR

In spring, European wasp queens leave their place of hibernation and search for suitable sites to establish a new nest. The first eggs laid hatch into workers.

The workers take over the nest chores and build a nest from saliva mixed with wood fibres. A nest can grow over summer to the size of a football.

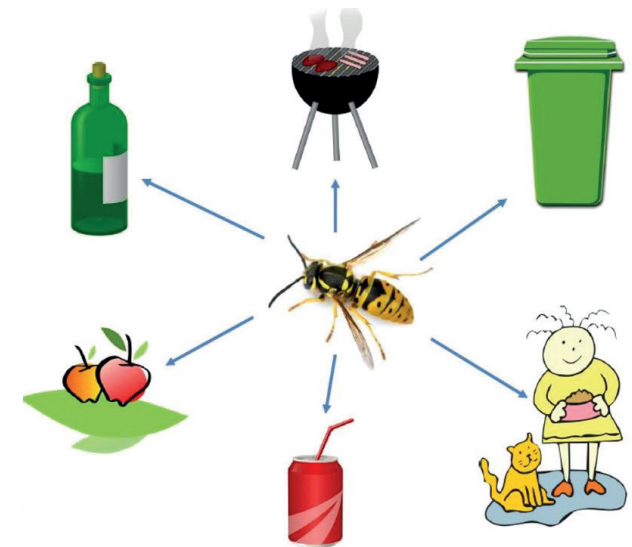
In autumn, the queen lays eggs for the next generation of queens. Once hatched, most queens leave the nest, mate and hibernate until spring.



ACTIONS TO MINIMISE RISK

To discourage wasps:

- Do not leave fallen fruit or food scraps lying around your property.
- Avoid leaving uneaten pet food or dog bones outside.
- Make sure rubbish bins have tight fitting lids. Keep compost covered at all times.
- Keep your swimming pool covered when not in use.
- Cover exposed food at picnics and barbeques.
- Check drink cans or bottles before drinking from them. Use clear containers or a straw.



For more information, visit "First Aid & Safety Tips" at www.ewasp.com.au