

FAQ's

Q: Where do wasps nest?

A: Wasps nest in the eaves of homes, under the tiles on tile roofs, parked vehicles & equipment, in wood or debris piles or any other undisturbed location where they are protected from the heat, cold, wind and rain, domestic animals and people. Wasps use trees for food sources (aphids), to collect water for building their nests just as they do from pools, rivers, lakes and dew on the grass and to seek temporary shelter in hot weather.

Q: Will the City spray the tree in front of my home?

A: No. Most trees in front of homes are not City-maintained trees. Additionally, spraying the trees may damage or kill the tree and does not address the nest where the insects live. If a front yard tree is damaged or killed, the homeowner does have the responsibility to replace the tree.

Q: Can't the City take care of the problem?

A: No. The city cannot use public funds for services benefiting private property homeowners or for the maintenance of such property. The use of City funds is restricted to public property.

Q: Don't my taxes pay for this type of service?

A: No. Taxes go to the maintenance and operations of public owned properties and facilities, as well as to the operations of city services, mainly Police Services.

Q: Can I kill the wasps myself?

A: Safety is VERY important when it comes to killing wasps around your home. Always use good judgment and if you are allergic to wasp stings or bites, you may want to consider hiring a professional exterminator. In order to effectively kill wasps, you must locate the nest. Use a spray specifically for wasps and spray the nest in the early, cool morning hours when the wasps are still in the nest from the previous night. Once the nest has been covered with poison, leave it in place for 3 to 5 days for stragglers. You may remove the nest after this.

Q: Who do I call at the City for additional info?

A: You may call the Neighborhood & Community Services Department for additional resource material or visit our website for downloadable brochures and informational fact sheets.

LATHROP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Wasps, Yellowjackets and Other Social Wasps



Lathrop Police Department Community Services Division

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Lathrop Police Department Community Services Division

209.647.6430

Yellowjackets and Other Social Wasps



Yellowjacket

General Information

Have you noticed a large number of wasps or yellowjackets hanging around this summer? This is a typical life cycle pattern according to the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Yellowjackets, wasps and mud daubers are common in California. While these pests can be some of the most annoying insects because of their aggressive, defensive behavior, they also provide a great benefit by pollinating plants, killing large numbers of plant-feeding insects and nuisance flies.

Nests of wasps and yellowjackets are typically built in spring when the queen comes out of hibernation. At this time she seeks out the perfect nesting place. Spring to midsummer is the growth phase with workers actively foraging for food. Late September to October the numbers of wasps/yellowjackets decline, the worker males mate with queens and die, and the fertile queen goes into hibernation until next spring.

Yellowjackets/Wasps/Mud Daubers

Yellowjackets, Wasp/Paper Wasp, and Mud Daubers are most common. These insects tend to build nests under eaves of buildings, beams and supports in attics, garages, sheds, and other similar places but will also build in the ground.

Nesting material is made of wood fibers mixed with wasp saliva, giving the nests a paper-like look. This is one of the reasons you commonly see wasps/yellowjackets on fence lines and gates. Mud Daubers build mud nests by mixing dirt with a water source – such as rivers, lakes, pools, overwatered lawns/gardens, runoff in gutters.

These insects forage for sugars and proteins which is why you see them around barbecues, soda cans, garbage cans, cat/dog food dishes, ripe or over ripe fruit as well as trees, bushes and flowers - looking for the honeydew after-product of aphids or aphids themselves.

The end of summer and beginning of fall marks the decline of the wasp/yellowjacket population for the season. While you cannot eliminate them, you can prepare for the next year.



Mud Dauber

WHAT YOU CAN DO – Helpful Hints

- Consider regular professional pest control around your home and yard
- Consider setting lure traps in late winter/early spring to catch queens awakening from hibernation; continue to set traps through late summer
- Don't overwater gardens leaving swampy conditions just right for nest building
- Harvest fruits and berries from trees/bushes in a timely fashion; remove and dispose of dropped fruit
- Feed pets inside or take up food bowls immediately after feeding
- Keep foods & drinks covered or serve inside the home
- Keep garbage lids closed tightly

For professional pest control services, please consult the yellow pages or search the internet for pest control in our area