

By Lavonne Dideon, owner of Aspire-PS

Knowing your Stinging Insects, And how to respond when they are around you.

Most wasps and bees are harmless and won't bother you if you leave them alone. In Washington State, there are a couple that you should take note of. Being able to know the difference gives you an edge in protecting your family.

Yellow Jackets – have a black and yellow striped pattern and are often mean and aggressive. Towards the end of summer, they will defend their nest. This will be an enclosed nest in a tree, inside a wall of a home or in an old rodent burrow. Catching the nests early on in the summer is helpful at reducing some unwanted interactions with them later.



Paper Wasps - form open honeycomb nests in the eaves of your home or even attics. As colonies grow, the wasps can become protective of their nests and will sting as a defensive measure. The paper wasps have a tight waist and may have red in their colorization.

Asian Giant Hornet – with past sightings along the Canadian border and Bellingham. The Asian Giant Hornet has been destructive towards other bee colonies. There is lots to learn about these Hornets. They are about 2 inches long.

Bald Faced Hornets – are larger and are related to the yellow jacket. They have black and white stripes. They create their nests on tree branches. You want to keep an eye out when you walk under trees.

Mud Daubers – Are similar looking to Paper Wasps. They are a solitary wasp that will form mud tubes in attics and eaves of homes. You can also find these tubes on walls. Some consider them a beneficial insect. This is because they are not aggressive and feed off spiders.

Bumble Bee – are common in Washington State. They are large and more of a furry bee. They are active at this time of year (early spring). They only attack if disturbed.

Mining Bees and Mason Bees – these are solitary bees that pollinate plants. They will also rarely sting people unless they are trapped, like in a persons clothing. People love to have them in their gardens and many stores sell houses for them to live inside.

Honey Bees - are the beneficial common honey bees that we use to fertilize our crops and agriculture. Rarely are they aggressive and they are the only stinging insect that survives the winter. If a swarm develops around your home, please let us know and we will work with you to rescue the colony. We often hand out wildflower seeds to clients to help protect the Honey Bee as a business.

There are many different stinging insects that live in Washington State. Only a couple really are a problem. Let us know if we can help you if they settle in our around your home. **Give us a call: 425-318-8551.**

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