

The European Wasp

Vespula germanica, also called the German Wasp in parts of Europe.

- Native to Europe, Asia & North Africa
- Introduced to Australia in 1958
- Far more aggressive than native wasps
- Agriculturally destructive
- A declared pest in WA



Appearance



- Similar size and shape to a bee
- 12-16mm long (queen 20mm)
- Bright yellow body with black triangle-shaped markings
- Yellow legs
- Two long black antennae
- Wings folded at rest

Appearance



Characteristics

	European Wasp	Paper Wasp
Size	Workers 15mm Queens 20mm	15-19mm long
Body shape	Stout, like a bee	Longer and thinner, narrow waist
Antennae	All black	Yellow-orange
In flight	Legs held close to body. Fly very quickly, do not generally hover.	Back legs dangle. Will hover around bushes and water sources.
Feeding	Scavengers - pet food, meat and vegetable scraps, meat products, fish, insects	Insect feeders including caterpillars, flies, beetle larvae and nectar



Queen

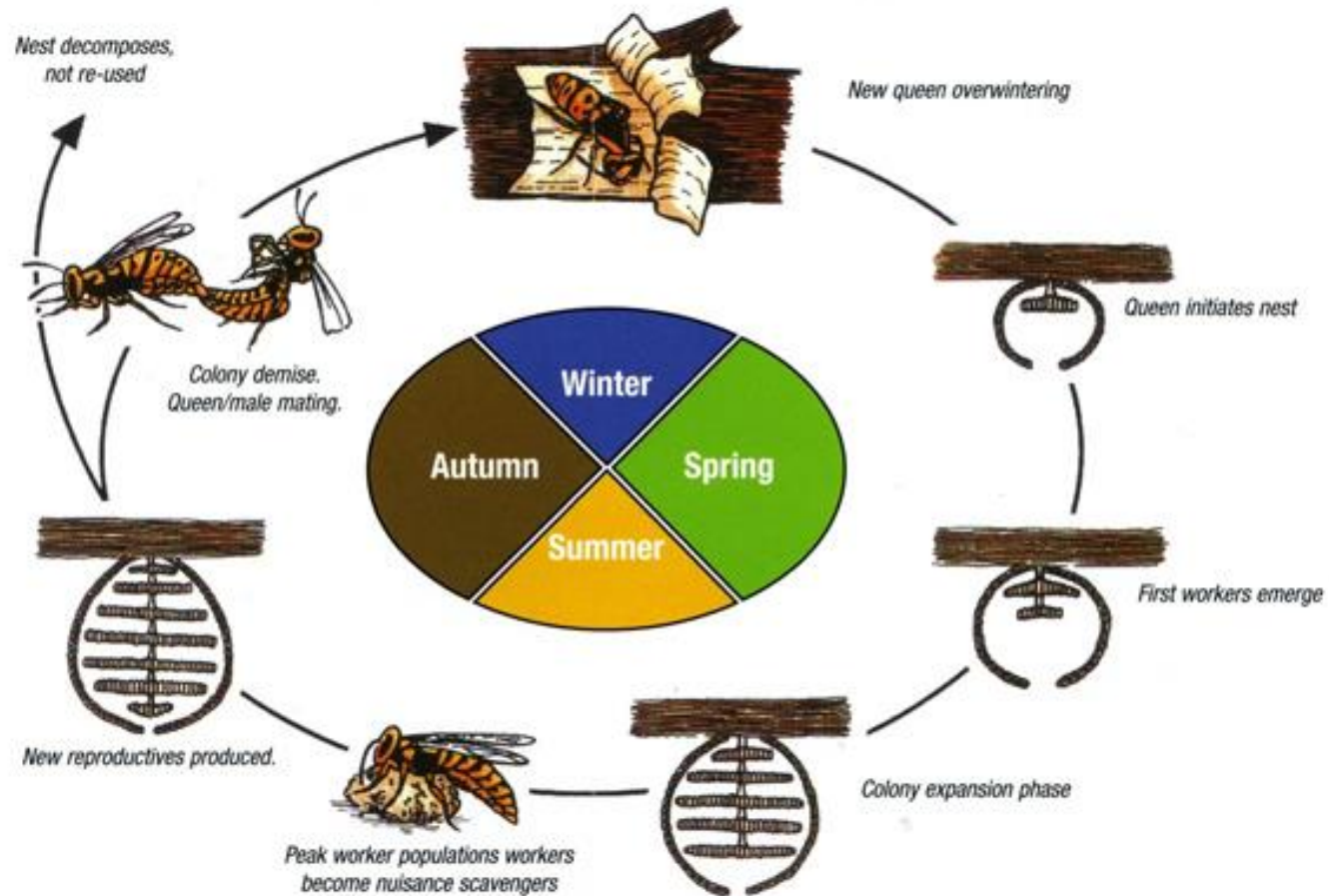
Worker



European wasp

Paper wasp

Life cycle



Overwintering

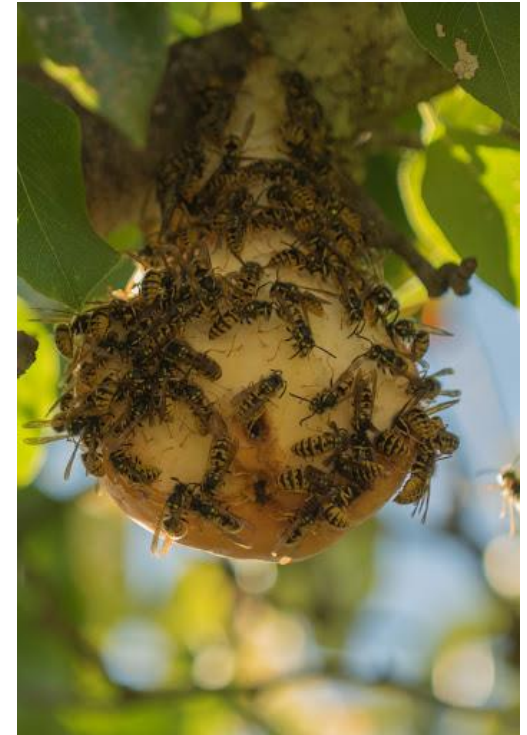
- During Winter, the colony will decline
- In Europe, the colony disintegrates
- Queens leave the nest, mate and find a site to hibernate, or 'overwinter'
- When the temperature warms up, queens will build new nests



Foraging and feeding habits

Adult wasps are **carbohydrate** feeders

- Plants and flowers
- Fruit, eg orchards, vineyards
- Sweet items, eg soft drinks



Foraging and feeding habits

Adults collect **proteins** to feed larvae

- Insects, eg bees
- Dead animals, eg road kill
- Human meat products
- Pet food



Foraging and feeding habits

Common **water** sources include:

- Lakes, dams, ponds
- Water courses
- Swimming pools
- Bird baths
- Plant saucers



Nest location



Outdoors

- Holes dug in the ground
- Base of trees or along hedges
- Within retaining walls
- In or under rubbish piles
- In an uncovered compost heap or grass clippings

Nest location

In a structure

- Roof void
- Wall cavity
- Subfloor
- Sheltered parts of a building



Wasp stings vs bee stings



A bee can sting only **once**

- The barbed stinger is left behind

A wasp can sting **multiple times**

- Releases a pheromone to alert others to attack

Symptoms of a wasp sting



- Sharp or burning pain
- Raised lump
- Redness
- Local inflammation
- Can cause an allergic reaction in susceptible people
- Severe reactions (anaphylaxis) can be life threatening



What to do if you get stung

- Clean the affected area with soap and warm water
- Use a cold pack to reduce swelling and pain
- Use pain-relieving medication and creams
- Be alert for more severe allergic symptoms – and then call 000!



When to call an ambulance (000)



- A child is stung more than 5 times
- An adult is stung more than 10 times
- The sting is in the mouth or throat, as swelling in these areas can block the airways
- There is a severe allergic reaction
- There is a history of an allergic reaction to European wasp stings

Don't encourage them!

- Don't leave food, drink or pet food outside
- Pick up any fallen fruit
- Cover compost bins
- Cover food at a BBQ or picnic
- Ensure outdoor rubbish bins have tight-fitting lids
- Don't drink straight from a can or bottle when outside, as it could contain a wasp – use a straw



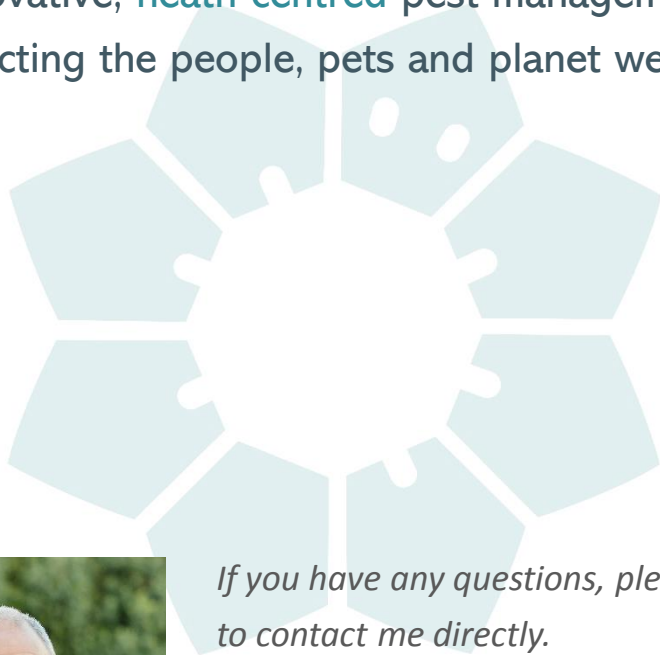
If you see European wasps

- Don't go near them, they will attack!
- Keep children and pets away from the area
- Call a pest professional immediately





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Protecting the people, pets and planet we love.



*If you have any questions, please feel free
to contact me directly.*

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