

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: Judy Gallagher, Flickr

**Common Name:** Northern Paper Wasp

**Scientific Name:** *Polistes fuscatus*

**Order and Family:** Hymenoptera: Vespidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	16 - 20 mm 11 - 17 mm (wingspan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Color and markings are highly variable in this species with combinations of black, red, yellow and brown.</li><li>• Appearance is dependent on regions where they occur.</li><li>• Darkening of the 4-5 apical flagellomeres.</li></ul>
Pupa (if applicable)		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing.

**Host/s:** Adults hunt soft bodied insects including caterpillars and orthopterans to provide food for larvae. Adults get nourishment from nectar.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Northern paper wasps do not typically cause damage, but often build nests on buildings and homes which may appear unsightly and require removal. Additionally, *P. fuscatus* are capable of stinging and will defend their nest if threatened.

**References:**

Grewal, K. (2002). *Polistes fuscatus*. Retrieved from  
[https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Polistes\\_fuscatus/](https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Polistes_fuscatus/)

Krombein, K. V. (1979). *Catalog of Hymenoptera in America North of Mexico: Symphyta and Apocrita (Parasitica)* (Vol. 1). Smithsonian Institution Press

Tibbetts, E. A. (2002). Visual signals of individual identity in the wasp *Polistes fuscatus*. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series B: Biological Sciences*, 269(1499), 1423-1428.  
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