

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Western Yellowjacket

Synonyms: The Meat Bee

Scientific Name: *Vespula pensylvanica*

Order and Family: Hymenoptera: Vespidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		Eggs are white and deposited within cells in the underground nest.
Larva/Nymph		White, legless and grub-like.
Adult	Range 12.0-17.5 mm, average worker size 15mm, queen (center picture) 20mm	Black, smooth and hairless with jagged bands of bright yellow on the abdomen, very short "waist" (the area where the thorax attaches to the abdomen). The underside of first antennal segment is yellow. The upper 3/4th of the compound eyes are encircled by a yellowish line, which is unique to this species.
Pupa (if applicable)		The pupae start off white and develop adult coloring just before emergence.

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

Host plant/s: Flowering plants to collect nectar for carbohydrates, fruit bearing trees to feed on overripe fruit, live prey such as spiders, harvestmen, caterpillars, flies, soft beetles, butterflies and moths, crickets and slugs, and various varieties of trees to collect wood fibers for construction if they reside in underground nests.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Larvae do not cause damage, because they aren't normally seen unless the nest is torn open or there is a sudden loss of adult caretakers, causing an exodus of starving larvae. Adults feed on spiders, harvestmen, caterpillars, flies, hemipterans, soft beetles,

butterflies, moths, crickets, slug and other insects and have been reported collecting dead insects to feed to their larvae. They are regarded as a pest when they threaten to sting humans.

References:

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