Pest Profile

Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Eastern Yellowjacket

Scientific Name: *Vespula maculifrons*

Order and Family: Hymenoptera, Vespidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	2.0 mm	- oval - opaque - creamy yellow color
Larva/Nymph	5.0 mm	- opaque white - grub-like
Adult	12.0 – 18.0 mm	- black and yellow bands on the head, thorax, and abdomen - markings differs on caste
Pupa (if applicable)	10.0 mm (diameter)	enclose in a paper hexagonal cell

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

Host plant/s: Eastern Yellowjackets are extremely adaptable. They live in forests, meadows, forest edges, urban environments, suburban environments, and fallen logs. They are attracted to sugary fruits and nectars, including synthetic foodstuffs

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Eastern Yellowjackets are polyphagous. They are subterranean and known to be opportunistic homebuilders. The nests can be ignore unless they are close to an entrance of a building, in the ground of a lawn that is mowed, or in any area where the public is likely to encounter them. They will swarm

and defend their colonies when disturbed and can cause a nuisance to livestock and humans. They are beneficial to some cultivars because they prey upon many arthropods, especially caterpillars and earwigs. In addition, they are attracted to sugary fruits and liquids.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). Garden insects of North America: The ultimate guide to backyard bugs. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Jacobs, S. (2010, March 1). Eastern Yellowjacket (Department of Entomology). Retrieved February 21, 2016, from http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/eastern-yellowjacket

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