

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Tom Murray, pbase.com

Common Name: Downy Yellow Jacket

Scientific Name: *Vespula flavopilosa*

Order and Family: Hymenoptera: Vespidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creamy white and legless.
Adult	10 - 16 mm (workers) Fore wing length: 8 - 11 mm (workers) 12.5 - 14.5 mm (queen) 11 - 12.5 mm (males)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First abdominal segment yellow with black anchor or broad triangular shape.• Wings folded longitudinally while at rest.
Pupa (if applicable)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generally wasp shaped with appendages held close to body.• Creamy white in early development, darkened later in development.• Enclosed in a silken cocoon.

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

Host/s: Downy yellow jackets are active scavengers and also hunt live prey to feed their developing larvae. Workers receive nourishment from other sources of sugar.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): This wasp does not typically cause damage, however, their presence around human structures can be dangerous as they are capable of stinging and will actively defend their nests.

References:

Buck, M., Marshall, S. A., & Cheung, D. K. (2008, February 19). Identification Atlas of the Vespidae (Hymenoptera, Aculeata) of the northeastern Nearctic region. Retrieved from https://cjai.biologicalsurvey.ca/bmc_05/key_vespula.html

Kimsey, L., & Carpenter, J. (2012). The Vespinae of North America (Vespidae, Hymenoptera). *Journal of Hymenoptera Research*, 28, 37-65. doi:10.3897/jhr.28.3514