

Pest Profile



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Common Name: German Yellow Jacket

Scientific Name: *Vespula germanica*

Order and Family: Hymenoptera: Vespidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Elongated creamy white and legless.
Adult	12 - 17 mm 20 mm (queens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Yellow and black bands on the abdomen.● Black antennae.● Covered in pubescence.● Clypeus (broad plate on head) with three spots.● Black diamond shaped marking on T1 of the abdomen.
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: German yellow jackets hunt for insect prey and will also feed on soft bodied carrion. Workers also feed on aphid honeydew, fruits, carbohydrates, and processed food. This species is a scavenger that is often attracted to human foods.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): German yellow jackets do not typically cause physical damage, but present a serious stinging risk due to their aggressive defensive behavior near their nests. Nests are often built in wall voids and attics in human structures. As an invasive pest, this species can displace local yellow jacket species and change the local population. Their high rates of predation on orb web spiders, mealworms, and caterpillars can result in local extinction.

References:

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