

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Erin Maxson, Wikimedia

Common Name: Ground Yellow Jacket

Scientific Name: *Vespula vidua*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First abdominal segment black with two yellow spots.• Wings folded longitudinally while at rest.• Black antennae, underside of scape yellow.
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 silken cocoon.

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

Host/s: These wasps hunt live prey including tobacco hornworm larvae and other arthropod prey to feed their developing larvae. *Vespula vidua* have been observed around garbage bins and picnics, but appear to be attracted to the odors and do not typically scavenge, although they do occasionally display scavenging behavior. They are not known to scavenge large, motionless objects, such as an animal carcass. Adults receive nourishment from nectar.

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:

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