

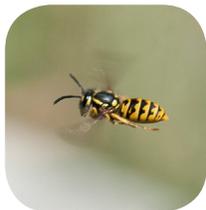
Identification

What to look for

- wasps feeding on meat, fruit, human food & drinks, pet food, insects & dead animals



- flying in and out of a single hole in the ground (90% of nests are hidden underground)
- raised legs during flight (all other wasps dangle their legs)



- black antennae (feelers)



actual size

Danger!

Nests are mostly hidden **underground** and can contain thousands of aggressive wasps. Small entrance hole(s), the size of a golf ball, are often disguised by leaf litter or grass. Sometimes nests can be above ground, e.g. in trees, walls or roof cavities.

First aid

Sting first aid



People and pets can get stung by disturbing nests or consuming food and drink, as **our food is their food too!** Fruit harvesting can also be dangerous as this may aggravate foraging wasps which can sting multiple times.

1. clean sting area
2. apply ice/cold pack to sting
3. take pain killers & antihistamines as needed.

Stings to the face or neck, or multiple stings, may lead to severe swelling and/or allergic reaction.

In severe cases, this can cause anaphylactic shock. If the person has difficulty breathing, is confused, develops a rash across the body or collapses, phone an ambulance **(000)** immediately.

For more information on first aid treatment and wasp stings, contact the Western Australian Poisons Information Centre on **13 11 26**.



Report

Always **REPORT** suspect wasp behaviour and nests! Take photos if safe to do so.



MyPestGuide™ Reporter
via online or app
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au



Pest and Disease Information Service
(08) 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

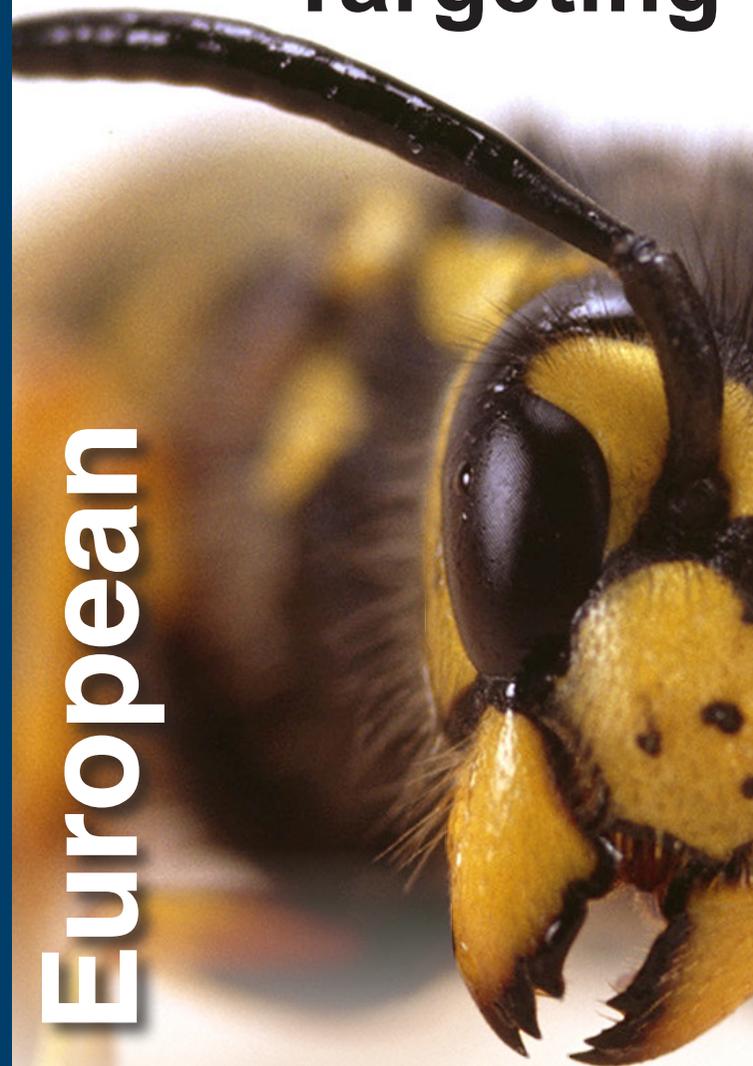
Alternatively, you can report to your local council's environmental health officer.



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



Targeting



European

Wasp

agric.wa.gov.au/wasps

European wasp surveillance and eradication program



Nest detection and destruction

European wasp

Surveillance

European wasp - a declared pest

European wasp, *Vespula germanica*, is a **declared pest** under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* and **must be reported** for eradication if found in Western Australia (WA).

This aggressive, scavenging and predatory pest thrives in rural and urban areas by feeding on fruit, human and pet food, insects and carrion. This behaviour has a profound impact on people, horticulture and the local environment. WA remains the only place in the world (within the wasp's range) to have prevented these wasps from establishing.

Fertilised wasp queens reach WA from eastern Australia to start new nests. If these remain undetected, nest numbers will grow exponentially.

We need your help!

Early detection of wasp activity is critical to prevent these wasps from establishing in WA. This can only be achieved through continued collaboration between residents, businesses, industry and government.

Surveillance

The **European wasp surveillance and eradication program** is an annual campaign coordinated by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

Targeted surveillance activities run from December through to June to align with increased wasp foraging activity. **Surveillance traps** can be 'adopted' by the general public, local government and special interest groups.



Nest detection and destruction

1 Detect

Wasps are caught in surveillance traps or reported by members of the public.



Trap



Report

2 Lure and locate

Fish is placed on wooden stakes to lure foraging wasps, which then carry the fish back to their nest. DPIRD officers record their flight direction to locate the nest.



3 Eradicate

Wasp nests are treated and destroyed by DPIRD officers using an insecticide powder. The nest breaks down quickly.



Nest treatment with hand-held blower



Underground nest structure