



## Hornets, Wasps and Bees

Colonies survive only for one year. They never reuse old nests but may build another one on top of it when it is not outside. Fertilized queens overwinter and those that do survive it, build new nests in the spring. A wasp can sting over and over.

**Yellowjackets** are 1/2 to 5/8 inches long, and black and yellow in color. They are the original paper makers in the world. Their nests are usually cone-shaped and can be in walls or hanging from trees or buildings and may even be underground. In the summer there may be as many as 4,000 workers in a single nest. Yellowjackets become more aggressive late in the summer when the new queens for the next season are being produced.



**Bald-Faced Hornets** are 5/8 to 3/4 inches long and are black and white in color. They build cone-shaped, paper nests in shrubs, trees and sometimes on buildings. The nests can be up to 24 inches in diameter. These hornets are very aggressive when their nest is disturbed but seldom bother people at other times.



**Umbrella Wasps** are 1/2 to 1 inch long and are slenderer than yellowjackets. They are mostly yellow with small areas of black. They build umbrella-shaped paper nests with a single layer of exposed cells often under roof overhang. They have small colonies of up to 200 workers. They rarely sting.

**Mud Daubers** are 1 to 1 1/8 inches long, with a long thin "waist". They are usually black with some yellow patches. Each individual wasp builds its own nest out of mud or clay. They do not seem to defend the nest and almost never sting people. They are predators of spiders which they paralyze and feed to their young.



**Bumble Bees** are 3/8 to 7/8-inch-long, robust and hairy and can sting many times. They usually build nests in compost piles or some other material such as insulation in walls. Only fertilized queens overwinter and establish new colonies in the spring.

**Honeybees** are 3/8 to 3/4 inches long. They rarely sting unless provoked. Each bee can sting only once as its stinger is left in the skin. When stung remove the stinger by scraping it out with the back of a knife or credit card etc. Do not try to pull it out, you will only squeeze in more poison. In the wild, they nest in hollow trees, wall voids and other protected cavities. Colonies usually survive the winter on the honey collected during the summer. There may be up to 60,000 bees in a colony.

