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Yellow Jacket Information Sheet

Yellow Jackets (*vespula spp.*) are aggressive stinging insects, because of this and the large number of people allergic to them certain precautions should be taken when engaging in outdoor activities during the months of July to October.

Yellow jackets usually nest underground and each nest can be home to approximately 1000 - 4000 workers whose job it is to find food for the colony.

Precautions that should be taken include:

- Avoid wearing solid colored clothing particularly orange, yellow, red or gold - these colors are attractive to all flying insects.
- Do not wear perfume or after shave when outdoors
- Cover food tightly when outdoors
- Serve juices and soda in cups with straws and lids. Avoid the use of cans as yellow jackets often fly into the cans-this is the cause of many stings to the face and throat
- Dispose of all trash in cans with plastic liners and tight fitting lids. Dispose of the trash promptly once the liner is full-make sure to tightly close the bag opening. Any spills should be cleaned up promptly with an all purpose cleaner and water
- Don't slap or wave at yellow jackets, this may make them more aggressive
- Do not attempt to eradicate a nest if you find one, that is best left to professionals who will do this type of work at night.
- There are often many nests in a large area such as an industrial park or college campus-it is not possible or desirable to eliminate them all. Yellow jackets are actually beneficial as they feed on other insects; it is when they come into contact with people that they are considered pests.