

## Wasps



**Wasps are characterized by their yellow-black-striped tail, a sting that they (unlike bees) can use any number of times, and their nests, "communities".**

**In mid-April, the queen that has been hibernating wakes up and starts looking for a new place to build a nest.** The nest is globular and the size of a walnut. It's composed of 10-20 cells and in the bottom of each cell the queen puts an egg. Once the eggs hatch in mid-May, she is pre occupied with feeding the larvae. In late May, the new wasps emerge, "the workers", who continues to build on the nest while the queen concentrates on adding more eggs. During this period (April-June) the only one active is the wasp queen.

**Wasps can become a problem for us humans during the peak summer period, July to August.**

As autumn starts the queen make new eggs that will become the new queens and males. The males soon die and eventually so does the queen and all the workers in the nest. Next spring, the new queens that have been hibernating wakes up and everything starts over again.

**In Sweden, all hornet nests are annual and old nests are never used again.**

At the beginning of the season from April to June when nests are small, you can try to take them down with a stick or similar and / or remove them completely during the late autumn or winter, when the nests are abandoned. Some of the 14 species found in Sweden sometimes build nests in the ground and is then called in the vernacular for "hornets".

### **Ground Wasps**

The wasps that put their nest in underground burrows are called hornets. Of the wasps in Sweden only three species nest in the soil. **If you suspect there are hornets in the ground you should look for one or more entry holes in the ground. Ground Wasps have a single entry hole while common wasps have more holes, and often in the sand. Common wasps are not dangerous to humans and need not be decontaminated.**

**Remember!** There are others insects that look like wasps but are harmless like flower flies and some butterflies. Blue Berry bees / solitary bees can also be seen in early spring and early summer. They usually stay inside walls and are smaller than hornets and therefore should not be confused with the Queen which is the only active wasp during this period. Bees have a large impact on both wild and cultivated plants, and may therefore not be decontaminated.

If you have further questions please contact:

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