

Yellow Jackets and other ground nesting and building void nesting bees



Most bees and wasps are beneficial insects that are the principle pollinators of all fruit trees, many native shrubs, and wild flower plants. Unless their nests are in places near human traffic, it is advised to let them “bee”. If there is a fear of bees close to human traffic and especially if it involves someone allergic to bee stings, the ground nests or those nesting in wall voids should be eliminated. The method of removal is simple and very effective.

When trying to eliminate wasp and bee ground nests, purchase an insecticidal dust. This dust contains talc that is mixed with the insecticide Sevin (carbaryl) or a pyrethroid. You will find these insecticide dusts in cylinder canisters. These products are generally used for dusting vegetation but in this matter, it will be placed into and around the entrance/exit opening of the bees or yellow jackets. During the evening (dusk), after dark, or early in the morning, put the insecticidal dust into the opening. As the bees exit in the morning, they will be forced to walk across the insecticidal dust. They will not return. After you no longer observe bee traffic near the opening, it is time to seal the opening to prevent a recolonizing of the hole.

If the nests are in wall voids or in reachable areas around the home or landscape, consider using a wasp spray. Typically, these sprays have a range of 15-20 feet. Aim carefully for the opening in the nest or where you have observed traffic entering and leaving. Be sure to dress in long pants, tennis shoes, sweatshirt, and a hat, if possible, to keep as little skin exposed in case the angry insects try to sting you.

If there are nests in eaves of homes, or high in trees, it is best to consult a professional to get rid of the insects for you.



Left: Sevin insecticidal dust to use for ground nests. **Right:** yellow jackets coming out of a ground nest

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