



German wasp

DESCRIPTION

Wasps are slim flying insects with black and yellow markings. They are active in the day and can be aggressive, particularly when disturbed.

Wasps are social creatures. They live in colonies comprising hundreds, sometimes thousands of individuals. Wasp nests are made out of a chewed 'paper-like' fibre, and occur in the ground, in the cavity of a building, tree, log or other object, or may hang freely from the branch of a tree or some other support. Large wasp nests will generally have more than one opening.

VALUES AT RISK

Ecological values.

Wasps prey on native insects and spiders, and compete with native birds for insects and nectar.

Beekeeping production.

Human health and safety.

STRATEGY RULES

There is no rule requiring you to control wasps. Any control is voluntary.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.landcareresearch.co.nz

HOW TO CONTROL WASPS

Be extremely careful when attempting to control wasps. They are aggressive and will swarm when disturbed.

Wasps can be effectively controlled by destroying their nest by:

Fumigation, using *kerosene* or *diesel*.

Locate all openings to the nest. Control can be undertaken in all weather conditions, but should be undertaken in the late evening when the wasps are all in the nest and are less active. Pour the liquid into the opening. **Do not light**. The vapours will kill off the wasps.

Carbaryl (a white powdered substance purchased from most plant centres) can be sprinkled at the entrance of the nest. The wasp will cover themselves in the powder and take it into the nest cavity. Normally within 12 hours the nest will be destroyed.

Contractors, a list of contractors are available in the yellow pages under Pest Control. The contractors will remove the nest at your cost

When nests cannot be found wasps can be controlled by wasp traps (see below).

For further advice or information about pest animal management contact:

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL
Pest Animal Management Section
Private bag 713, Stratford
Ph: 06 765 7127 or 0800 736 222
Fax: 06 765 5097 www.trc.govt.nz

WASP TRAPS



Large numbers of wasps can be killed with a very simple trap.

1. Cut the top quarter off a plastic soft drink bottle.
2. Invert the top and glue it back on so that the narrowing opening faces down into the bottle.
3. Half fill the trap with a mixture of water, sugar (1 tablespoon per 100mls) and a little detergent (1 teaspoon).
4. Wasps will be attracted to the sugar and will land on the surface of the water. The detergent breaks the surface tension so the wasps sink and drown.