



Jim Zylstra



Insect *tips*

8788 Eastern Ave SE Byron Center, MI 49315 • 616-554-9499 • www.TuffTurfMolebusters.com

Summer is here!!!

Picnics, barbecues and sitting on the deck are favorite past times. But these moments can be disturbed and sometimes ruined by the presence of insects. One insect, the Yellow Jacket, can be a major problem. They are persistent, they can sting, and they like whatever you bring outside to eat or drink!!!



Yellow Jackets are wasps. They are usually less than one inch in length. Their nest begins in spring and reaches maturity in August or September. Most nests are in the ground under stumps or shrubs. But they also nest in voids. These voids may be in a tree or a house. Such locations can be difficult to treat. Yellow Jackets are territorial and will defend their nest. Be careful when moving around a suspected nest site. Their sting is painful and most encounters involve many stings. Yellow jackets will sting more

readily than most any other wasp and since they can do so over and over again, it is best not to irritate them.

brought back to their nest to feed larvae. Yellow Jackets work for nothing other than feeding their young. Though this sounds noble, the adults have self motivated intentions. They get a sugary food from young larva in exchange for the protein they provide.

Q&A

Q: Yellow Jackets seem to be attracted to me more than other people. Why is that?

A: Yellow Jackets use both vision and odor to find food; people will many times become the target of their focus. This is due to many reasons. People regularly sweat which Yellow Jackets love. They will readily seek the salty moisture where they can find it and during warm hot dry spells, people become a prime target. Furthermore, the colognes, anti-perspirants and other scents we wear can all contribute to Yellow Jackets finding us attractive. Certain colors will catch their eye as well and though there is no real pattern for this behavior, it is clear that bright colors during certain times of the year will attract them.

Common Household Pests and Practices

Some of the most common household pests include insects such as ants, termites, flies, pantry pests, bees and wasps. Remember, most pests need food, water and a place to live. Eliminating any one of those elements will help significantly in controlling the pest. There are a number of steps homeowners can take to help keep their homes pest free:

Once food is found, Yellow Jackets will fly on, in or around their target trying to get a taste. This food is then



- Clean regularly and reduce clutter inside and outside of your home.
- Keep foods such as flour, cereal, spaghetti and pet food in re-sealable containers with tight lids.



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- Sweep and vacuum often (especially in eating areas) to help eliminate food sources.
- Keep garbage areas clean and store garbage in sealed containers that are picked up regularly.
- Seal cracks, crevices, and other gaps around doors and windows.
- Limit access to water or moisture by sealing any cracks and leaks in pipes and faucets.
- Outside your home, keep trees, shrubs and flowerbeds well maintained and avoid having them touch the house.
- Store firewood away from the house and at least 5 inches off the ground.
- Clean gutters regularly and direct water from downspouts and drains away from your home.
- Seal any gaps where utility wires or pipes come into your home.