# Stinging Insects of Allergenic Importance





## **Red Imported Fire Ant**

Solenopsis invicta

- Southern states and Pacific Coast
- 1/16-1/4" (1-6mm)
- Sting produces painful burning sensation

**Baldfaced Hornet** 

Dolichovespula maculata

Black abdomen with black and white

12" or larger nests in trees, shrubs and

**Black Paper Wasp** 

Polistes fuscatus

• North America, predominantly the East

• Amber-black with yellow rings on the

• Papery nests with open cells hang from

**Honey Bee** 

Apis mellifera

Yellow and black banded abdomen and

Honey Bees live in managed hives kept

thorax covered with dense hairs

by beekeepers or in hollow trees

abdomen and brown wings

• 1/2-1" (13-25 mm)

Stings if provoked

Worldwide

• 3/8-5/8" (9.5-16 mm)

Light brown-to-black

trees and buildings

patterns on face, thorax, and abdomen

Northern-half of the United States

Stings repeatedly if disturbed

5/8-3/4" (16-19mm)

under eaves

- Reddish-brown females, darker males
- 18" mounds in sunny, open areas



### **Yellow Hornet**

Dolichovespula arenaria

- North America, excluding Plains states
- 1/2" (12mm)
- Black and yellow bands on abdomen
- Stings repeatedly
- Nests hang from trees, shrubs,
- Nests have open cells, visible from below

Image from Department of Environment Biology, University of Guelph



#### Golden Paper Wasp Polistes fuscatus ssp. aurifer

**Black Imported Fire Ant** 

Solenopsis richteri

• Sting produces painful burning sensation

• Reddish-brown females, darker males

18" mounds in sunny, open areas

Southern states and Pacific Coast

1/16-1/4" (1-6mm)

- North America, predominantly the East
- 5/8 7/8" (16-21 mm)
- Yellow head and body
- First abdominal segment is dark reddish-brown with bands of yellow
- Rarely aggressive, but stings if provoked
- Papery nests with open cells hang from trees and buildings



# Polistes annularis

- Eastern and Midwestern states
- 5/8 -7/8" (16-21 mm)
- Mahogany brown head and thorax with darker brown, black and yellow markings on the abdomen
- Rarely aggressive, but stings if provoked Papery nests with open cells hang from
- trees and buildings

Image from Department of Environment Biology, University of Guelph



# **Common Paper Wasp**

Polistes exclamans

- Throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico
- 1/2-5/8" (12-16 mm)
- Reddish brown, yellow markings, stripes
- Rarely aggressive, but stings if provoked Papery nests with open cells hang from trees and buildings



# **Common Brown Paper Wasp**

Polistes metricus

- Texas and Eastern states 5/8 – 7/8" (16-21 mm)
- Reddish brown with black and yellow
- markings on abdomen
- Rarely aggressive but stings if provoked Papery nests with open cells hang from
- trees and buildings



- North America, especially Western and
- Northeastern states
- 3/8-1/2" (9.5-12 mm)
- Four yellow spots on the thorax
- Stings repeatedly if provoked
- coniferous trees

Image from Department of Environment Biology, University of Guelph



# **Common Yellow Jacket**

Vespula vulgaris

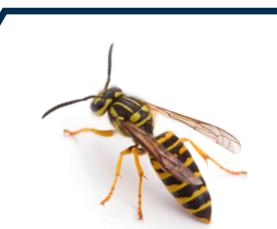
- Black and yellow stripes
- A rear, black diamond
- Spherical, pale, papery nests near



#### **Western Yellow Jacket** Vespula pensylvanica

- Western North America1/2-5/8" (12-16 mm)
- Yellow with some black
- Usually nest underground but occasionally in wall voids and attics

Stings repeatedly when threatened



#### **Southern Yellow Jacket** Vespula squamosa

• Eastern United States

- 1/2" (12mm)
- Black with yellow markings Stings repeatedly when threatened
- Nests in the ground have the
- appearance of paper cartons





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**German Yellow Jacket** 

Vespula germanica

• Eastern and Western United States

• Black spots on the abdomen or strong

Bold, aggressive and sting repeatedly

protrusions of black from black stripes

Large, papery soccer ball-shaped nests

underground or in wall voids, attics, etc.

Image from Department of Environment Biology,

University of Guelph

• 1/2-5/8" (12-16 mm)

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