



Time for Yellowjacket Traps

According to the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, more than two million Americans are allergic to stinging insects, more than 500,000 enter hospital emergency rooms every year suffering from insect stings, and between 40-150 people a year die as a result of these stings.

We see two types of wasps around schools – the European paper wasp and the western yellow jacket. See our fact sheet on stinging insects (<http://ipm.agsci.colostate.edu/school-ipm-resources/>) to determine what type of wasp you have. If you need assistance to identify a wasp, collect and submit a sample to the CSU Pest Diagnostic Clinic or your local Extension office. Yellow jackets are attracted to meat, and European paper wasps are attracted to fermenting fruit.

The primary type of wasp trap sold in garden and home centers contains heptyl butyrate, a chemical that is attractive to the yellow jacket wasp, but not to the European paper wasp. Now is the time to place these commercially available traps for yellow jackets.

If your main concern is the paper wasp, thoroughly inspect the eaves and overhangs around the school. Knock down and remove all old wasp nests. You can make your own trap for the European paper wasp using a soda bottle trap with a mixture of 1 part fruit juice to 10 parts water + 1 tsp. liquid detergent. The juice must begin to ferment in order to be attractive, and so it may take a day or two for rapid fermentation to begin.

