



December 2016

Call to arms

No West Australian would like to see European wasps (*Vespula germanica*) set up home in their backyard.

Problematic and attracted to your food like flies, but packing more sting than a bee, European wasps are a social menace and are regarded as the world's worst social wasp pest.

If that's not bad enough they threaten our natural insect biodiversity through predation and competition, have been recorded attacking bee hives and can impact on horticulture industries due to their ability to damage fruit when feeding.

Established in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania, European wasp queens hitchhike to WA in freight and cargo. The queen sets up shop and quickly establishes a nest containing thousands of wasps. By the end of summer new queens are produced and disperse to start new nests.

December marks the start of the European wasp field season where the Department of Agriculture and Food, WA (DAFWA) works with the community, local government and industry in deploying surveillance traps to detect if these wasps are nesting nearby.

We have a six month window each year where we can selectively trap for these wasps and destroy their nests to ensure they don't get a foothold in WA.

Report



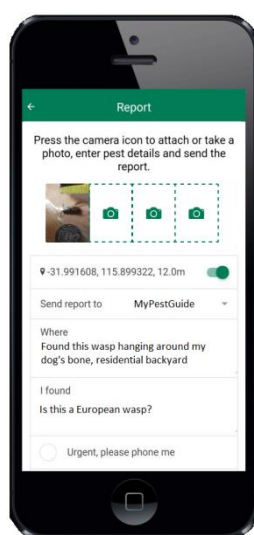
**European
wasp**

**Paper
wasp**

European wasps are similar in appearance to the common and widely established yellow paper wasp (*Polistes dominulus*). However, they can be distinguished from paper wasps by their solid **black** antennae or 'feelers' and their **attraction to meat** and food products. When in flight, they hold their **legs close to their body**, unlike paper wasps which have long dangly rear legs.

How to help

Please take photos if you can and report any suspect European wasps via the options below:



Use our free **MyPestGuide™ Reporter** App or MyPestGuide website
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au



Email photos and location details to info@agric.wa.gov.au **or**

Call 1800 084 881.

Adopt-a-trap

Want to participate by adopting a surveillance trap? If you're happy to bait your trap with a small cube of fish fortnightly from Christmas to Easter and report any suspect wasp catches,

please call us or email your name, postal address and contact details. We are looking for participants willing to commit to a few seasons of trapping.



You can see the location of our surveillance traps going up on our **MyPestGuide** website. Select the 'European wasp trap' project to see the trap locations and help us fill in the gaps!

More information

For more information visit our webpage agric.wa.gov.au/wasps. No internet? Please call us on 1800 084 881.

Reporting unfamiliar pests

DAFWA's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) screens enquiries for new weeds, pests and plant diseases, which could negatively impact the success of WA's local horticulture and agricultural industries and the ability to grow home produce.



Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS). info@agric.wa.gov.au. 1800 084 881
Department of Agriculture and Food, WA. 3 Baron-Hay Court, South Perth WA 6151.

