

HOW TO AVOID STINGING INSECTS

•HONEYBEES • YELLOWJACKETS • WASPS • HORNETS

Stinging insects do not seek sustenance from humans, as do mosquitoes, flies, and fleas. The stinging of these insects is only used against people for self defense or defense of the nest.

•HONEYBEES•

These bees travel in a straight line from flower to hive, and stings usually occur when someone interrupts a bee in flight, or strikes a flower in which a bee is working.

Honeybees are attracted by flower fragrances, bright colors and smooth-water surfaces. Fragrant, perfumes, colognes and powders also act as attractants. The fragrance of some house paints has been known to act as an excitants to honeybees and cause them to behave aggressively.

For safety, clothing should be light in color. Hair should be short or tied up during the warm months to avoid entanglements that cause stings.

If a person is stung and cannot identify the insect, see if the stinger is embedded in the sting site. If it is, chances are that sting was from a honeybee.

•WASPS •HORNETS •YELLOW JACKETS•

- Wasps feed on the larvae of other insects, which they kill with repeated stings.
- The stinger is not embedded in the sting site.
- The adult wasp lives on juices, sap and nectar;

They are attracted by odors such as spoiling foods, soft drinks, fruit juice, leather, perspiration, bright colors and a water supply. Yellow jackets make their nests in the ground and the paper hornets' nest maybe close to the ground or high above it. Both of these stinging insects are therefore particularly hazardous to bare feet and ankles.

GENERAL RULES FOR AVOIDANCE AND REMOVAL

- The first rule when a stinging insect approaches is to **STAY STILL**
- Remember, beekeepers wear protective clothing and **ALWAYS MOVE SLOW.**
- Never slap or brush off an insect of this kind. It will not sting unless frightened or antagonized.
- Be careful when you shake out clothing that has been left on the ground. Wasps or other stinging insects could be in the folds of the clothing.
- Avoid orchards in the bloom, clover fields and any areas that are abundant with flowers. Don't wear dark clothing and don't wear perfume or hairsprays.
- Do not mow lawns, trim hedges or prune trees during the dangerous seasons.
- Collisions cause stings, so avoid running, riding horses, bicycles, or motorcycles. A convertible automobile with the top down is especially hazardous.
- Keep a "bee cloth" (even in an enclosed car) to trap frightened insects before they sting, or keep an insecticide spray in the glove compartment.
- Inspect properly in the early spring and make periodic inspections all summer until the first frost. (Allergic individuals should not participate in these activities).
- Use the skills of an exterminator or the local fire department to remove hornets' nests. Bee keepers will often be glad to come to your property and relocate a bee colony.
- Locate yellow jackets nests during the day and demolish them at night when the insects have returned home.
- At least two applications of gasoline, kerosene, or lye are needed in the hole where yellow jackets have nested. The fumes do the job, so you do NOT light the gas or kerosene. Wear protective clothing and call an exterminator if you are uncertain about how to proceed.
- Wasps' nests can be knocked down with a broom handle after spraying the nest with an insecticide.