

University of Florida IFAS Extension Storm Related Pests – Wasps

Hurricane winds and area flooding also destroyed nests of many of the stinging insects such as paper wasps, hornets, and yellowjackets. These nests had significant numbers at this time of year, so you will encounter stinging wasps as they scavenge for food and seek shelter among debris and exposed trash. All are capable of multiple stings that are very painful.



Paper wasps – Smaller multi-celled paper nests commonly found under building eaves and in plant material. Photo Lizzie Paulus, UF



Hornets – Larger aerial paper nests, often in trees.



Yellowjackets – Mostly ground nests, but can be found in tree cavities and stumps. Photo: Lyle Buss, UF

- Try not to swat at wasps flying around or landing on you. You may be less likely to receive a sting if you can flick them off.
- Some wasps are attracted to the sap from broken or recently cut trees. Look before you reach. Wear gloves and other protective clothing when moving debris in case you disturb foraging or nesting activities.
- Wasps are also attracted to sugars and water. Try your best to keep food and drink cans covered. Completely close garbage containers or bags that contain food debris.

Do It Yourself Traps for Yellowjackets from UF IFAS Extension

- Cut the top 1/3 off your 2 liter bottle so that you have 2 pieces.
- Add a bait (fermenting fruit or beer) to the bottom of the plastic bottle.
- Invert the top portion of the bottle into the base, forming a funnel.
- Hang or place traps so they are about 4 to 5 feet above the ground. For safety, place them away from people.



Credit: Alison Zulyniak

Pesticides

- Repellents are not effective against stinging wasps.
- If you are spraying a pesticide, make sure it is labeled for wasps and you are following label directions.