

# Common stinging insects

## bees - wasps - hornets - yellow jackets

Species	Appearance	Description	Hive and Habitat	Hive Appearance	Sting Risk
Bald-faced Hornet		1/2-3/4" long; black and white, smooth body	Paper nest, at least 3' off the ground, and as high as 60' - trees, overhangs and shrubs		Aggressive; can sting repeatedly
Bumble Bee		3/4-1" long; yellow and black, fuzzy body	Underground in abandoned holes made by rodents		Typically not aggressive; can sting repeatedly
Honey Bee		1/2" long; queens up to 3/4" long; orange and brown/black, fuzzy body	Honeycomb layers, large hive - bee box, hollow trees and above ground structures such as chimneys and wall voids		Typically not aggressive; can only sting once
Paper Wasp		5/8-1" long; yellow and black, smooth body, slender waist, orange-tipped antennae	Exposed umbrella-shaped paper nest built in or under sheltered areas. Nests often hang from twigs, branches and porch ceilings		Typically not aggressive; can sting repeatedly
Yellow Jacket		1/2-3/4" long; yellow and black, black antennae, smooth body	Layers of comb built in the ground, hollow trees, under eaves		Aggressive; can sting repeatedly
Carpenter Bee		3/4-1" long; females are black with iridescent wings, hairless abdomen	Bores holes and builds galleries in wooden structures and trees		Typically not aggressive; can sting repeatedly
Mud Dauber		1/2-1" long; black and yellow or metallic blue or black, slender waist	Small mud nests built in or under sheltered areas, sides of stucco buildings		Typically not aggressive; can sting repeatedly
Hornet		1-1 1/4" long; reddish brown with yellow stripes	Sheltered nests have no covering, unsheltered nests have a paper covering - trees and structures		Typically not aggressive; can sting repeatedly
Africanized Honey Bee		1/2" long; queens up to 3/4" long; orange and brown/black, fuzzy body	Build nests in structures above the ground. Cannot survive in cold climates		Aggressive; can only sting once