

European Paper Wasp

Typical Location When Observed: Outdoors in yards and gardens. Nests are often conspicuous and constructed under eaves, in small cavities and other protected sites. Adults may be seen regularly throughout the warm season in cruising flights and searching plants.

Importance/Damage: A very common yard/garden insect in much of the state since its establishment within the past decade. Capable of stinging.



European paper wasp gnawing on wood

Distinguishing Features: Yellow and black, about 15-18 mm long. Superficially they may resemble a yellowjacket. However, the body of the European paper wasp is narrower and it has long hind legs that trail in flight.

The paper nests are not covered and consist of open cells. They hang under eaves or other protected sites or are made in small cavities. The European paper wasp does not come to “wasp traps”. It does not scavenge food or garbage.



European paper wasps on nest

Resources: More information on this insect is available in Extension Fact Sheet 5.611, *European Paper Wasp*.

Scientific Name: *Polistes dominula*

Order: Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies and Relatives)

Family: Vespidae (Vespid/Paper Wasps)

Actual Length

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