

Paper Wasp



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

PAPER WASP

FAMILY: Vespidae

ORDER: Hymenoptera

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 3/4 - 1 inch long
- ◆ black with vivid yellow markings
- ◆ the abdomen is tapered at both ends
- ◆ long, slender, yellow legs



Where to Look:

Paper wasps are most often seen visiting flowers in fields, woodlands and gardens. They can also be seen on their paper nests which they often build under eaves or decks.

Who Eats It?

Paper wasps are eaten by birds and bats.



LIFE CYCLE COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

Paper wasps are social insects with a hive of about 30 individuals. A fertilized queen overwinters as the sole survivor of the hive. In the spring she builds a paper nest made of chewed wood (looks like paper) and builds her colony of workers.

What It Eats.

Paper wasps feed on nectar from flowers or the juice of ripe fruits. They are also predatory on caterpillars and other insects.



Did You Know

Paper wasps, although not extremely aggressive, can inflict a painful sting which can be treated with meat tenderizer made into a poultice and spread on the skin.

Role in the Ecosystem

Paper wasps are important pollinators. They also are predatory and help control herbivores.