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Entomology & Nematology

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## Online Training Available

<https://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/>

<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

## Additional Resources

University of Florida  
Extension Publications  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Pest Management in and  
Around Structures

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

## PMU Focus - Stinging Insects

By Mike Bentley

Stinging insects are most active in Florida during the summer and fall months. This month's newsletter will be the third and final issue of our stinging insect series, and will focus on identifying wasps.



Fig 1. Yellow jacket. Photo: UF, J. Castner.

## Pest ID: Wasps

Yellow jackets (Fig 1), paper wasps (Fig 3a), and mud daubers (Fig 4a) are all wasps. They are generally considered beneficial insects because they prey on many harmful insects found around homes and gardens. If disturbed, however, these wasps can sting. Encounters are most often unintentional, and occur when a person disturbs a wasp nest. Knowing how to identify wasps and their nests may help to avoid these potentially painful encounters.

### *Yellow Jackets (Vespula spp.)*

- Social wasps, with yellow and black markings on the abdomen (Fig 1)
- Can be aggressive and will readily sting
- Can build nests underground or above ground
- Above ground nests are paper-like, and usually football shaped (Fig 2).

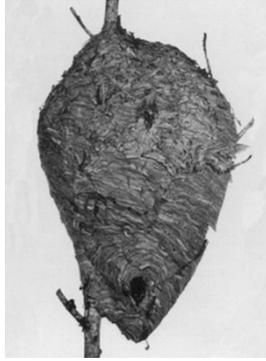


Fig 2. Yellow jacket nest. Photo: UF, J. Castner.

### ***Paper Wasps (Polistes spp.)***

- Social wasps, usually yellow with brown markings or black with red or yellow markings (Fig 3a)
- Can be aggressive and will readily sting
- Paper wasp nests are paper-like, usually located under eaves or within shrubbery, and are typically shaped like an inverted umbrella (Fig 3b)



Fig 3a. Paper wasp. Fig 3b. Paper wasp nest. Photos: UF, J. Castner.

### ***Mud Daubers (Sphecidae spp.)***

- Black with long, thin waist
- Is not a social wasp
- Not aggressive and rarely stings people
- Nests are made of mud and are typically located on the sides of buildings or under eaves



Fig 4. Mud dauber and its nest. Photo: UF, J. Castner.

For more information on wasps and bees, click [here](#).

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## Upcoming Training Opportunities:

We are starting to release our **2015** courses. Please check back monthly for updates! Thank you for supporting PMU.

**Must have taken both Foundations and Masters through PMU to qualify for these PMU state exam seatings.**

### November Offering

**Masters of General Household Pest Management (Only 2 seats left!)**

**Date:** November 5-7, 2014; Wed-Fri

**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

**Registration fee:** \$375

This fast-paced class is only offered once a year. **Must have completed Foundations in order to advance.** State Exam offered on the afternoon of Nov 7 for those who have approved applications.

- Learn about biting and stinging insects, stored product pests, and occasional invaders as well as how to recognize delusory parasitosis.
- Play with the tools of the trade, vacuums, steamers, foamers and practice spray patterns.
- Prepare for an introduction to vertebrate pests that carry disease causing organisms.
- Learn about the legal liabilities of GHP work.
- Practice affidavit writing and working with DACS on licensee inspections.

[Register here](#)

### Expert in Termite Management

**Date:** December 3-5, 2014; Wed-Fri

**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

**Registration fee:** \$375

**Must have completed Foundations and Masters to qualify.**

This intensive course is only offered every other year.

- Hear from building contractors what can go wrong

during the building process and how termites exploit these weaknesses.

- Analyze the Florida Building Code requirements for termite proofing structures.
- Review Florida Dept. of Transportation and OSHA requirements, including hazardous communication standards.
- Learn about how termiticides work and more in-depth biology and behavior of WDOs.
- Try out alternative inspection and treatment methods.

[Register here](#)

### **L&O Category**

### **Masters of Ornamental and Turfgrass Pest Management**

**Date:** December 17-19, 2014; Wed-Fri

**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

**Registration fee:** \$375

Integrated pest management is the key to successfully growing urban plants. Know if or when treatment is needed, how to decide what your options are, how to manage pesticide resistance, and evaluate your control strategies.

Please contact Dr. Eileen Buss (eabuss@ufl.edu, (352) 273-3976) directly with questions concerning these courses.

[Register here](#)

Click on links for course descriptions or go to <http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/courses> for more information

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Learn more from IFAS



- UF/IFAS has Extension Offices in each of Florida's sixty-seven counties. We also have twelve Research and Education Centers and Research and Demonstration Sites (RDSs).
- If you need help a great place to start is your local County Extension Office. With an office located in every county it has never been easier to partner with the University of Florida and your local County Government. To find the office near you please visit:  
<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/>