

Carpenter Bees

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FIG. 1

Type Pest: (*Xylocopa* spp)

- Not considered pest
- Although a wood boring insect, not considered a true structural pest
- Males incapable of stinging
- Female rarely sting

Type Metamorphous: complete (egg, larva, pupa, adult stages)

Other Common Names: none

Period of Primary Occurrence: April through summer

Areas Affected

- Unvarnished or unpainted wood

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Large solitary bees
- Blue-black covered with bright orange/yellow hair
- Abdomen is void of hair
- Adult body length about $\frac{1}{2}$ – 1" (12.5 – 25 mm)
- Robust in form, resembling bumble bees, but with top surface of abdomen largely bare and shining
- Hind tibiae with apical spurs. Front wing 2nd submarginal cell triangular; hind wing with a small jugal lobe (lobe on rear margin near body)

Description / Symptoms

- Nesting tunnels are found in soft or damage wood (facia, fences, patio covers and window sills)
- Perfectly round hole, approx. $\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter
- Tunneling may be 6" wide and up to 4' long
- A stained, coarse sawdust-like substance may be found underneath the hole



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

- Old tunnels found near the newer ones
- Old nest can be used year after year

Best Management Practices (BMP)

- Start treatment in early spring before the carpenter bees begin to bore into or out of wood
- All treatments are difficult with lack of access into long chamber

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Keep a coating of paint or sealer on all exposed wood
- Seal holes in the fall by covering with caulk or wood putty
- Spray early the following year to prevent further boring

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Use Stinger Wasp Freeze directly on hovering males
- Use Demon WP Suspend on potential boring areas (unpainted or unvarnished)
- Demon WP and Suspend will last 2 – 3 months, leaving an active residual
- Use with a garden type sprayer, but watch for run-off

Sources

Public Health Entomology A Guide For Foresters in the South Terry S Price – Entomologist,
J Frederick Allen – Director

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Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label: “KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN”

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