

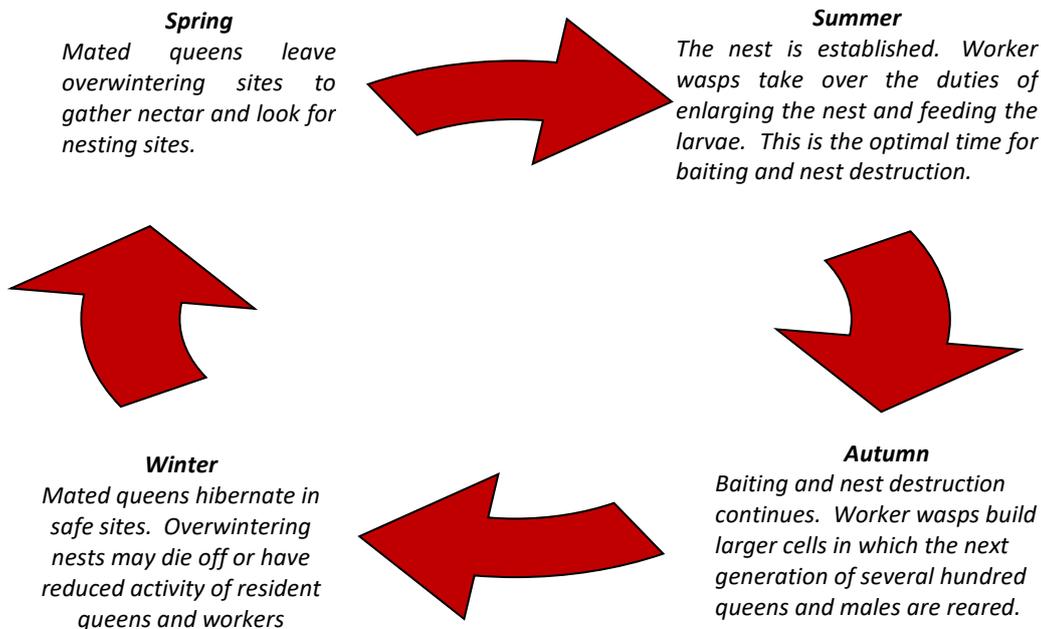
## Wasp Behaviour

Wasps are social insects with a strict class structure. They feed on carbohydrate (sugars) and protein (meat), and take food back to the nest for the developing larvae. Once a wasp has fed, it will fly in a direct line to its nest and will faithfully return to a known source of food. Wasps commonly range up to 500m from their nest but may travel several kilometers.

Wasps will repeatedly sting and alert other nearby wasps who may also attack if disturbed. Their nests are made from fibrous material appearing conical in shape. Nests are often well hidden and may be underground with only a small opening visible making them hard to detect.

There are two ways to reduce a local wasp problem; either find and destroy all the nests in the area, or use poison bait.

## Wasp Lifecycle



## Using Bait Stations

Permethrin is a registered poison for the control of wasps. It is recommended for use with the Durga™ bait station which is designed to attract wasps and allow them to return to their nests carrying permethrin on their legs.

The Durga™ uses a protein attractant such as beef, chicken or liver to lure the wasp. To access the lure, the wasp must enter the Durga™ through specifically designed entrances. Once inside, the wasp either walks or flies across permethrin to access the lure. Importantly, the lure must be pure or uncontaminated by any permethrin otherwise the wasp will not touch the lure. Once the wasp has feasted on the lure and gathered some of the lure in its mouth, it is ready to return to the nest. The wasp is forced to walk across the permethrin to exit thus collecting a small amount of permethrin on its legs. It then returns to the nest and walks small amounts of permethrin throughout the nest. The wasp will die and the permethrin residue will interfere with the natural cycle of the nest. As the permethrin levels increase inside the nest, it will destroy itself.

Source: <http://pestandvermincontrolcentre.com.au/durqa-tm.html>

# Treating nests in the ground or buildings

## WARNING

If you are not confident about treating a European wasp nest, do not proceed. Only treat nests that are easily accessible and allow a quick and easy retreat. Do not treat the nest yourself if you think you are allergic to wasps, bees or ants. In this case contact Indigo Shire Council or a pest controller. Use only chemicals registered for use against wasps in Victoria and read all labels before use.

1. All nests should be treated at night when the wasps are least active.
2. Cover yourself fully with clothing and use a red-covered torch, because wasps cannot see red light.
3. Approach the nest quietly, point the insecticide dust down the entrance hole and give several good puffs or shakes. If the nest is disturbed and wasps emerge during treatment, quickly retreat and wait for the wasps to settle down before approaching again.
4. Insecticide dust is less effective if the ground is wet, if there is excessive wind, or if the dust is washed away by rain or a sprinkler. In this case reapplication is necessary.
5. After a day or two, activity at the nest should cease. If wasps continue to be active after four or five days, reapply the dust.
6. The hole can be filled in after a few days. There is no need to remove the nest itself, once it has been destroyed.

## WARNING

Use the precautions and equipment outlined in treatment advice and do not make physical contact with the nest. Do not use aerosols or dusts in a confined area as the fumes may be harmful.

*Source: Living with European Wasps, Victorian Department of Primary Industries*

## Permethrin Safety

**DISPOSAL:** The Permethrin dust should not be disposed of near water, it should be securely wrapped in paper, placed in a plastic bag and put in the garbage.

**SAFETY:** Avoid contact with eyes and skin. Do not inhale dust. When using the Permethrin product wear rubber gloves. Wash hands after use.

**FIRST AID:** If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre Phone 131126

*Source: Sanderson, D. (2013) Wasp management in Tasmanian vineyards.*