

BALD FACED HORNET INFO SHEET

General Information

Bald Faced hornets get their name from the large white patches on their faces. They can be found across the United States. Its main predators are bears and raccoons.

Size	3/4"	Common Name	Bald Faced Hornet
Shape	Wasp shaped	Kingdom	Animalia
Color	Black and white	Phylum	Arthropoda
Legs	6	Class	Insecta
Wings	Yes	Order	Hymenoptera
Antenna	Yes	Family	Vespidae
		Genus Species	Dolichovespula maculata

Diet

Bald Faced hornets eat nectar and fruit juices.

Habitat

Bald-faced hornets house their colonies inside large nests that they build hanging from trees, bushes, vegetation and occasionally buildings. A single mated queen starts a new nest each spring by laying eggs inside a small nest made from paper strips and loose bark. The workers then gradually expand the size of the nest until it is larger than a *basketball* by the end of the summer. The Queen lives deep in the nest, so she is always protected.

Impact

Bald Faced hornets are aggressive and will attack anyone or anything that invades their space. They have smooth stingers, so they can sting over and over again. Their stings also carry venom that makes the stings hurt, itch or swell for about 24 hours. Humans are at the same risk of allergic reactions from a Bald Faced hornet sting as with other hornet stings.

Prevention

- * Do not leave sweet drinks or meats out in the open.
- * Call a pest management professional if you find hornets around your house.

To learn more about this and other wasps, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/wasps.html>