



# Wasp Identification Guide

1 inch



**Paper wasp**  
(*Polistes* sp.)

- Color varies by species
- Slender bodies
- Dangly long legs
- Umbrella-shaped paper nests



**Eastern cicada killer wasp**  
(*Sphecius speciosus*)

- Black abdomen with 3 patterned yellow bands
- Solitary underground burrows



**European hornet**  
(*Vespa crabro*)

- Red head, yellow face
- Abdomen mostly yellow with dark bands & 'teardrop' spots
- Paper nests in concealed places

## Not in Maryland



**Northern giant hornet**  
(*Vespa mandarinia*)

- Entirely yellow head & face
- Yellow abdomen with dark even bands
- Paper nests in abandoned cavities

1 inch



**Southern yellowjacket queen**  
(*Vespula squamosa*)

- Larger than worker yellowjackets
- Yellow-orange bodies
- Thorax with black stripes
- Paper nests in abandoned cavities



**Yellowjacket**  
(*Vespula* sp.)

- Abdomen with alternating yellow & black bands; band patterns vary by species
- Paper nest location varies by species (underground vs. aboveground)



**Baldfaced hornet**  
(*Dolichovespula maculata*)

- White face
- Black bodies with white markings
- Aerial egg-shaped paper nests



**Yellow-legged hornet**  
(*Vespa velutina*)

- Black head, yellow face
- Abdomen dark at base, yellow toward tip
- Yellow "feet" (tarsi)
- Aerial egg-shaped paper nests

