

CONGRATULATIONS!



You have chosen **native cicada killer** (*Sphecius speciosus*), a solitary, predatory wasp whose 2-inch size alone can be intimidating, but imagine them in numbers enough to disturb lawns with their burrows. Do not fret, though. Unless attacked, their stingers are reserved for the annual cicadas, which they paralyze and bring back to their nests. Along with an egg, they seal in each brood cell one to three cicadas, which remain alive and will be eaten by the developing larva.

Introduced from Europe in the 1960s, the solitary European wool-carder bee (*Anthidium manicatum*), pictured below far left feeding on *Stachys officinalis* (betony), is now found throughout the United States. Though it is a generalist, it prefers blue, tubular, Old World flowers. The female lines her nest with the “wool” from plants like lamb’s ear. **Males** are larger than females, have spiked abdomens, and are very aggressive in defending their territory; but remember, they cannot sting.

Introduced from Asia, the solitary giant resin bee (*Megachile sculpturalis*), pictured below center left, was first reported in North Carolina in 1994. It pollinates invasive species like **butterfly bush**, **golden raintree**, kudzu, and **purple loosestrife**. The female builds its nest in existing cavities using tree sap and resin.

Introduced near Boston from Eurasia in the late 1970s, the social European paper wasp (*Polistes dominula*), pictured below center right feeding on *Monarda punctata* (spotted bee balm), has since become invasive and spread across the United States, outcompeting and causing the decline of native *Polistes*. The adult European paper wasp feeds on floral nectar and other sugary liquids and is well adapted to urban areas where it makes its open-comb nests near human structures. To feed its developing larvae, it preys not only on pests like the destructive cabbage white but on native butterflies like monarchs, perhaps aiding the decline of butterfly populations. According to entomologist [Whitney Cranshaw](#), the European paper wasp “is devastating to essentially all species of yard and garden [Lepidoptera](#).”

Introduced from Eurasia to New York in the mid-1800s, the social European hornet (*Vespa crabro germana*) is now found in the eastern half of the United States. It is pictured below far right feeding on a bumble bee that it hunted on *Eutrochium dubium* (three-nerved Joe-pye-weed), but it also eats other bees, yellow jackets, flies, and butterflies, as well as fallen fruit and plant sap. Its paper nests are found in concealed hollows (in trees, walls, attics, etc.). Like other social wasps, all nest dwellers die in winter, and only the new queen survives.



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