

YELLOW -JACKETS

Honey
Bees

INSECT TIDBITS

Honeybees are the good guys! They are the primary pollinators, which is what allows plants to make fruits and vegetables. But bees are in crisis. Other insects, which were accidentally brought into the US, have nearly wiped out our native bee populations.

Pesticides and pollution have also taken a toll.

A bee may fly 55,000 miles to make one pound of honey.

Bees fly up to 15mph and could fly around the world fueled on 1 tablespoon of honey.

PREVENTION

- **Know the difference** between bees, wasps, and yellowjackets. Bees are important pollinators – don't kill them if they are not a threat. Paper wasps and bees are aggressive only when disturbed. Yellowjackets are aggressive and likely to sting.
- **Remove food sources.** Don't encourage yellowjackets to come near your home by accidentally feeding them. Pick up fallen fruit, cover trashcans, don't leave moist pet food outside, and don't leave open soft drinks out. If wasps are around, use lids on drinks. They are attracted to the sugar in the drink and can be swallowed if you are not careful.
- **Gently and calmly brush a wasp or bee away** if it comes near or lands on you. Do not move quickly or swat at it – if you squish it, a chemical will be released that can alarm and attract the rest of the hive.

LESS-TOXIC CONTROLS

- **Purchase wasp traps** at nurseries or hardware stores.
- **Call a professional** if a nest or hive must be removed.
- **Use sprays** for at-home spot contact that contains pyrethrum/rotenone. Read and follow the label directions.



Yellowjacket

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the Central Coast Environmental Health Project (CCEHP) at (805) 963-1622 ext. 111, or the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner at (805) 681-5600. Information compiled by the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO) and the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's office on behalf of the CCEHP.