

Pest aside

MAN'S BEST FRIEND MIGHT BE THE WASP by Stanley Rachesky

Entomologist - University of Illinois

WASPS ARE NOT the most popular of insects, probably because they are so well equipped to defend themselves.

Interestingly enough, it has been hypothesized that without the insect order Hymenoptera, to which wasps belong (there are 4,000 species in the U.S. alone and over 100,000 species in the world), man could scarcely survive.

The vast majority of wasps normally develop as parasites or predators on other species of arthropods (the vast phylum of animals that includes insects, spiders millipedes, mites, centipedes, etc.), including those plant feeding insects that threaten man's food supply. Also, wasps pollinate many of our plants.

In fact, most wasps are no threat at all to man. About 90 per cent of all wasps are solitary wasps and their venom does not bother humans. Other wasps, while potentially troublesome, are so small they are not able to pierce human skin.

As you might imagine, the 100,000 species of wasp are quite diverse. They range in size from an eighth of an inch long to more than 3 inches. Some wasps are wingless while others have wingspreads ranging up to 4 inches. Collectively wasps prey upon almost every type of insect and spider.

Nonetheless, some species of wasps are strong, fast fliers and do sting humans with uncomfortable results. Most persons stung by a wasp, yellow jacket, or hornet have only mild, local pain. However, about 2 per cent of the population is allergic to such stings, and this group should exercise caution.

A study by the United States Public Health Service covering a 10 year period from 1950 thru 1959 reports that 22 per cent (110 cases) of all human fatalities caused by venomous animals were caused by the stings of wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets.

So while it is quite unusual for such a sting to prove dangerous, anyone not feeling or acting normally after being stung by an arthropod should be seen by a doctor as quickly as possible.

When you finally can afford to lose a ball, you can't hit it that far.



These construction pictures taken at Bob-O-Link Golf Club, Highland Park, III., are the result of condemnation in a growing community. The six foot six inch sewer tile, total length 1,500 feet, is being installed across the golf course at a depth of seventeen feet. The two men standing in the tile are Bob Williams, Superintendent at Bob-O-Link on the left and Fred Opperman, Superintendent at Glen Oak Country Club. By the expression on Bob's face it looks like he lives up to his philosophy, "Why Worry?"



Nels J. Johnson, Tree Experts, Inc. SINCE 1930 Complete, economical tree service for Private Estates, Parks, Municipalities, Golf Courses Cemeteries, Schools, Industrial Areas. All phases of Arboriculture, Diagnosing, Pruning, Treating, Transplanting, Fertilization, Hydraulic and Mist Spraying, Removals, Stump, Routing, Municipal Forestry. - FULLY INSURED – GRADUATE FORESTERS MAIN OFFICE: 912 Pitner Avenue, Evanston, Illinois Phones: GR eenleaf 5-1877 – GR 5-5255 Hinsdale, Illinois – FA 5-0970