It’s summer, and along with the miserable heat waves, we also have an explosion of wasps around our schools and homes. Wasps pose a serious threat to public health due to their ability to sting when threatened. Sensitive environments, such as schools, need to pay extra attention and monitor for wasps to prevent encounters with children.

Identification:

**Paper Wasp**: 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch long. Most species are black or red with distinct red, brown and/or yellow markings. Compared to yellowjackets, their flight is typically slow. Nests are often constructed in protected sites such as eaves of buildings, exterior corners of windows, beneath decks and inside uncapped fence poles.

**Yellowjacket Wasp**: 1/2 inch long with distinct yellow and black markings. The yellowjacket wasp is typically thicker-bodied than the paper wasp. Their nests are most often constructed underground in protected areas, such as around the base of a tree or shrub.
**Sting Prevention**

- Keep sweet items covered.
- Wasps, like children, are attracted to sweets. This includes recycle bins and garbage cans that contain soda cans or fruit scraps. Change bin and can liners often and clean them with soap and water regularly.
- It is recommended that all outside garbage cans and recycle bins be covered with a self-closing lid.
- Don’t walk barefooted on the playground or in the yard.
- Don’t harass the wasps by swatting at them or going near nests.

**Monitoring & Control**

Make sure to monitor weekly starting in spring for wasps and yellowjackets. Teachers and students should be educated about wasp safety and notify the principle if wasps are noticed around school grounds. Control of wasps should be left to the PMP, as stings are likely if done improperly.

**SCHOOL IPM NEWS**

- [Tick problems and organic control](#) (Author: Donna Reynolds)
- [Ticks: what to do if you’re bitten](#) (Author: Leilana McKindra)
- [A strange butterfly-ant relationship discovered in Peru](#) (Author: Aaron Pomerantz)
- [Entomopathogenic fungi can help to control filth flies](#) (Author: Josh Lancette)
- [New discovery may improve future mosquito control](#) (Author: Steve Byrnes)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- [All bugs good & bad webinar series](#) (August 5th, 1pm CDT), Controlling Roaches Before They Control You
- [2016 XXV International Congress of Entomology](#) (Sept. 25-30-Orlando, FL)