



## COMMAND PEST CONTROL

### Information sheet number 31 – The European (Median) Wasp



#### **Appearance:**

The Median Wasp has a sign of "7" on the sides of the thorax. Apart from the much bigger Hornet the Median Wasp is our biggest Paper Wasp. Queens may grow to a length of 18 to 22mm. The workers and the drones reach a bodily length of 15 to 19mm.

#### **Breeding:**

The queen starts building the nest by the end of April. The nest has a maximum of six combs and some 900 to 1,700 inhabitants, including eggs and larvae. At its height a nest contains about 500 workers. The first workers appear by the end of May or the beginning of June.

#### **Food:**

Its principle food preference is soft-bodied insects, caterpillars and flies. The adults visit flowers and take nectar. They visit orchards in the autumn to feed from ripened and fallen fruit. They become sugar frenzied in late summer and into the Autumn.

#### **Where do Wasps live?**

Any type of building and usually close to human habitations. They favour orchards and will nest in homes, business premises and outbuildings as very commonly in trees, bushes and sometimes shrubs.

#### **Diseases:**

No disease is passed to man but it is a can be very aggressive insect in defence of its nest - it often stings humans if trapped inside clothing or in defence.

#### **Damage:**

They will infest cake and confectionery production / retail outlets. They will also spoil fruit in orchards. They can be a major hazard in sugar, jam and fruit juice factories and are a pest in beer gardens and on the beach.

**For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049**