



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Information sheet number 29 - The Hornet



Appearance:

Length 23-25mm female and 21-28mm male. Two colour forms exist in Europe. This is a large wasp and the markings are similar to European wasps but it is their sheer size and reddish colouration that distinguishes them.

Breeding:

Queens emerge in April and are active until September. Nest construction is similar to the German and European or common wasp. New queens over-winter in tree stumps and hollow trees. Nests are often in the same location every year but old nests are not used, new ones are built.

Food:

Its principle food preference is soft-bodied insects, caterpillars and flies. The adults visit flowers and take nectar. It visits orchards in the autumn to feed from ripened and fallen fruit.

Where do Hornets live?

Oak woods, water meadows and old parks are favoured sometimes close to human habitations. They favour orchards and will nest in homes and outbuildings as well as trees.

Diseases:

No disease is passed to man but it is a fairly aggressive insect in defence of its nest - it does not normally bother man.

Damage:

Hornets will sometimes attack hives and rob bees of their honey. They will also spoil fruit in orchards like wasps, but their activity is minor because it is a generally rarer insect.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049