

Some Thoughts on Yellow Jacket Traps from the NY State Integrated Pest Management Program

Studies have been done to determine the effectiveness of baited traps as a way to reduce stinging insect pressure near concession stands and similar sites. This technique has value when you understand what to expect. It does not mean you will not have yellow jackets foraging around food and garbage during the late summer and early fall, but do act to reduce their numbers.

Stinging insect traps are generally food-baited traps that draw wasps and hornets into a container from which they are unable to escape. The idea is to attract them away from concession stands and food courts. Traps can be quite successful in capturing but if there are other food sources (sugars and proteins= soda, hamburgers, etc) wasps will forage them as well as the traps.

For Example: This strategy can be effective at a concession stand used during a fall sports season. Place traps at a distance from the food source *weeks before* the concession stand opens. This establishes a routine for foraging wasps and may continue to draw them after another food source is available. Place these traps on poles, on buildings or in trees at a height of about 6 ft from the ground and closer to the suspected nest site than the concession stand, to deter them from traveling farther.

Baits include fruit juices or fruit flavored soda. Depending on temperatures, humidity and number of captures, baits may need to be refilled and traps emptied over a multiple week period. **This can be done with care and common sense. Dry traps are ineffective. Traps may contain live wasps at the time of refilling but most will be dead.**

For a full report on trapping research:

http://nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/yj_trapping/files/yj_trapping.pdf