

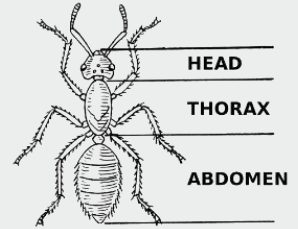
Controlling Pest Insect Invaders

**EVERYONE'S
RESPONSIBILITY**



Pest Insect Invaders

There are no longer pest insects listed in the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan, however we often receive requests on how to control them, so this booklet is to assist you in identifying and managing any insect pest infestations you may have.



ARGENTINE ANTS – *Linepithema humile*

Argentina



Origin – First recorded as established in 1990 at Auckland. They accidentally arrived at Port Nelson, and were discovered in 2001.

Characteristics – No acetic smell when crushed. Tiny, light brown in colour. Form large super colonies. Form long continuous trails along pavements, garden edging and fences etc.

Management issues – Argentine ants are transported on vehicles and in freight, rubbish and pot plants. These ants can impact native fauna by removing insects in their ecosystem. Nuisance value on and in homes. Their rate of colonising new territory is 100 m per year.

Control methods – **Poison:** Surface contact spray, with Bifenthrin (avoid food preparation areas). See back page for insecticide brands and availability.

DARWIN'S ANTS – *Doleromyrma darwiniana*

Australia



Origin – First recorded as nesting in Penrose, Auckland in 1959. A probable separate establishment at Lyttelton in 1979. They were discovered in the 1980's at Nayland, Nelson, before Argentine ants arrived in Nelson city.

Characteristics – Acetic smell when crushed. Tiny, light brown in colour. They have winged adult males and the Queen is 5 mm long.

Management issues – Transported on vehicles and in freight, rubbish and pot plants. Nuisance value on and in homes.

Control methods – **Poison:** Surface contact spray, with Bifenthrin (avoid food preparation areas). See back page for insecticide brands and availability.

WHITE-FOOTED HOUSE ANT – *Technomyrmex jocosus*

Australia



Origin – First discovered in New Zealand, at Nelson in 1921.

Characteristics – Black in colour and named ‘white-footed’ as they have white to yellowish leg extremities. Commonly trailing on and in houses during summer. They have a winged life stage of adult males and females.

Management issues – Nuisance value on and in homes.

Control methods – **Poison:** Surface contact spray, with Bifenthrin (avoid food preparation areas). See back page for insecticide brands and availability.

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG – *Halyomorpha halys*

Asia



Origin – Currently not located in New Zealand.

Characteristics – When crushed they emit a characteristic, unpleasant and long lasting odour. Adults are approx. 1.7 cm long with a distinctive brown “shield” shape.

Management issues – They are a devastating insect, potentially of plague proportions, that will seriously damage our horticulture, viticulture, vegetable and stock feed industries. Occasionally they are detected at New Zealand’s ports of arrival, where thorough border inspections are in place to detect them. They may arrive in import containers, luggage, the mail or on the transport of personal effects and homewares.

Notifiable organism – **A serious potential pest.** Please contact the MPI hotline 0800 80 99 66 (Ministry for Primary Industries).

Two types of wasp nests



Vespula wasp nest (enclosed)



Paper wasp nest (open)

ASIAN PAPER WASP – *Polistes chinensis*

Asia



Origin – Accidentally introduced in St Helliers, Auckland around 1979. By 1990 it had established in Nelson.

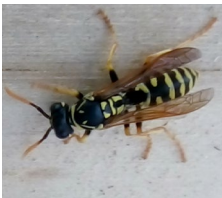
Characteristics – Wasps sting multiple times. Small colony, on a small wood fibred, lantern shaped nest.

Management issues – Nests attached to buildings, particularly residential buildings.

Control methods – **Poison:** Puff nest with powdered Permetherin or Allethrin and d-Phenothrin. See back page for insecticide brands and availability.

EUROPEAN PAPER WASP – *Polistes dominula*

Europe



Origin – The comparatively recent accidental arrival was first discovered in Waikawa/Picton in 2011. It's now present in Nelson, Richmond, Motueka and Golden Bay.

Characteristics – Wasps sting multiple times. Looks very similar to the Asian Paper Wasp but has two tiny yellow dots on top of the thorax. Small colony, on a small wood fibred lantern shaped nest. Sometimes nests are built inside metal cavities, such as tubular metal framing.

Management issues – Nests attached to buildings, particularly residential buildings.

Control methods – **Poison:** Puff nest with powdered Permetherin or Allethrin and d-Phenothrin. See back page for insecticide brands and availability.

COMMON WASP – *Vespula vulgaris*

Europe



Origin – Accidentally introduced to New Zealand in the 1920s, when the first nest was found here. It did not establish here until the late 1970s.

Characteristics – Wasps sting multiple times. No black dots on the abdomen. Nests are “brown” in colour. Colonies are large. Wood fibred nests are constructed inside rooves, with access under corrugated iron edging, at gutterings. Also commonly located in banks and at the base of flax/grass clumps.

Management issues – General nuisance with outdoor activities during peak wasp numbers during March to April. Seriously affect native forest ecosystems, with plagues of wasps destroying insects and nectar sources. Some people may have an allergic reaction to wasp stings.

Control methods – **Poison:** Puff nest entrance with powdered Permethrin or Allethrin and d-Phenothrin. See back page for insecticide brands and availability.

GERMAN WASP – *Vespula germanica*

Europe



Origin – The original incursion was the accidental arrival inside crates of aircraft spare parts, in 1944, at Te Rapa, Hamilton.

Characteristics – Wasps sting multiple times. A series of two opposite black dots on each band of the abdomen. Nests are “grey” in colour. Colonies are large. Wood fibred nests are constructed inside rooves, with access obtained under corrugated iron edging, at gutterings. Also commonly located in banks and at the base of flax/grass clumps.

Management issues – General nuisance with outdoor activities during peak wasp numbers during March to April. Seriously affect native forest ecosystems, with plagues of wasps destroying insects and nectar sources. Some people may have an allergic reaction to wasp stings.

Control methods – **Poison:** Puff nest entrance with powdered Permethrin or Allethrin and d-Phenothrin. See back page for insecticide brands and availability.

BUMBLEBEE – *Bombus species*

Europe



Origin – Introduced from England in 1885 to help pollinate red clover.

Characteristics – Bumblebees are usually relaxed, not aggressive and stings are uncommon. Queen and workers can sting multiple times. Nests are normally in the ground, with 200 to 300 bees in a nest. They have longer tongues to assist flower fertilisation. They are attracted to the colour blue.

Management issues – Their colonies are smaller in numbers than honey bees. They are of high value for fertilising flowers, and are used commercially to fertilise glasshouse crops.

Control methods – Considering their low numbers, docile nature, minimum nuisance and importance to fertilising flowering plants, try to live with them.

HONEY BEE – *Apis mellifera*

Europe

Honey bees are productive insects that provide honey. Occasionally they swarm and may set up new hives on or in objects, on your residential property.



Origin – Originally introduced to Northland from Australia by Samuel Marsden in 1839.

Characteristics – Honey bees sting only once. During November, colony queens may take their whole colony to a new site. This is called swarming.

Management issues – If swarming bees land on structures on your property contact a local beekeeper, as they are always interested in reclaiming a hive.

In the Tasman District, under the local RMP rules for residential zoned properties, up to two beehives maybe kept on residential properties. Nelson City Council have no such rule in their residential areas.



GISBORNE COCKROACH – *Drymaplaneta semivitta*

Western Australia



Origin – Common in timber arriving from Western Australia. First seen in Gisborne in the 1960s, but now found from Auckland to Nelson. Present throughout Nelson City, Richmond, Māpua and Motueka.

Characteristics – Fawn stripes on the outer shell of the thorax. Scuttle off rapidly if disturbed. Are seen at night time, on walls outside or in buildings. They can fit into tiny confined spaces such as recesses in aluminium joinery. They are wingless and do not fly.

Management issues – Can enter houses, but prefer to live outside. They can populate to plague proportions if not controlled.

Control methods – **Poison:** Surface contact spray, with Bifenthrin (avoid food preparation areas). See back page for insecticide brands and availability.



Vespex wasp bait in an (open state) bait station

Disclaimer

As a result of information in this booklet regarding insecticides, the Tasman District and Nelson City Councils do not accept liability for any damage to any person, property or thing that may arise from use of insecticides. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism, of similar products not mentioned.

Insecticides notes – Always read label instructions!

The products below are available at farm supply businesses, hardware stores and online from the supplier websites listed to the right.

Allethrin and d-Phenothrin – Brand names: Bayer Blitzem Wasp Killer & Nest Destroyer, Kiwicare® No Wasps Nest Killer.

Bifenthrin – Brand names: NoPests® X-It-Ant, NoPests® Crawling Insect Spray, NoPests® Biforce Granules.

Deltramethrin – Brand name: NoPests® Bug Spray.

Fipronil – Brand names: Key Industries KAS Ant Sand, Vanquish Pro Ant Bait, Vespex®.

Indoxacarb – Brand name: NoPests® Wasp Bait.

Permethrin – Brand names: Bayer Blitzem Wasp & Ant Nest Destroyer Dust, Kiwicare® No Wasps Eliminator, Kiwicare® No Ants.

Helpful websites featuring insecticides and pest insects

Find-A-Pest – www.findapest.nz

Key Industries – www.nopests.co.nz

Kiwicare – www.kiwicare.co.nz

Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research – www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/invertebrates

Pestrol – www.pestrol.co.nz

Vespex® – www.merchento.com/vespex.html

Notification

If you see any unusual insects, please contact the MPI hotline on 0800 80 99 66 (Ministry for Primary Industries).

Registered pest controllers

If you are not prepared to control pest insects yourself, you can pay a pest controller to do the work for you. Look at “pest control” online or in the Yellow Pages of the phone directory.

Pest insect control advice

If you would like further information on how to control a pest insect issue, please contact your local Biosecurity Officer through your local Council office.

Contact your local Biosecurity Officer:

 **tasman** district council | Te Kaunihera o **te tai o Aorere**

03 543 8400 • info@tasman.govt.nz
tasman.govt.nz

 **Nelson** City Council | Te Kaunihera o **Whakatū**

03 546 0200 • enquiry@ncc.govt.nz
nelson.govt.nz

Printed: 12/24