

Carpenter Bees – *Xylocopa virginica*

[file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/carpenterbee%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/carpenterbee%20(1).pdf)

It takes many years for carpenter bees to cause significant structural damage; damage can be minimized by sealing nesting holes in the fall or winter (if you do this during the spring and summer they will simply create a new entrance) with a small dowel or expanding window caulk and providing alternative nesting sites in cedar (their preferred nesting material in the East); insecticides are inefficient and dangerous and should not be used to control carpenter bees.

<http://insects.about.com/od/antsbeeswasps/a/How-To-Control-Carpenter-Bees.htm>

If carpenter bees are already a problem, you will need to use an insecticidal dust to treat the nests. Insecticidal dusts are usually applied with a puffer that allows you to coat the interior surface of the entrance holes with the insecticide using a gentle burst of air. Contact your local extension office to find out which insecticides are effective and legal for use on carpenter bees in your area.

For the insecticide to work, the bees must come in contact with it as they crawl through the entrance hole of the nest. Apply the appropriate insecticidal dust in the spring, just before adults emerge to mate. Once you see the bees emerge, wait a few days before filling in the nest holes with wood putty or filler.

If you didn't apply the insecticide before the spring adults emerged, you will need to treat the nests twice – once in the spring, and again in late summer, when the next generation of adults is foraging. Because bees will be active during the day, it's preferable to apply the pesticide at night. This will reduce your chances of being stung by females trying to defend their nests. In the fall, seal the nest holes with putty or filler.

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/pdf/2074.pdf>

Mechanical Measures

A non-insecticidal management approach is to deny carpenter bees access to their galleries by sealing each entrance hole. Thoroughly plug the hole with caulking compound, wood putty, or a wooden dowel affixed with wood glue. If possible, also fill the entire gallery system with a sealant. Carpenter bee galleries are a critical resource, since the bees spend much of their time inside a gallery, and they require its protective conditions to survive the winter. Bees that are trapped inside a caulked gallery typically will not chew out due to behavioral constraints. This barrier approach has promise for reducing future carpenter bee infestations. In new nests, the single female often can be swatted and killed, or she can be captured and crushed or otherwise destroyed. Larvae and pupae can be killed by inserting a sturdy wire into the entrance hole and probing into the gallery as deeply as possible.

<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/carpenter-bees>

A little more control information.

Research courtesy of: Diane McClymont Peace (February 2015)