

**GROUND-NESTING YELLOWJACKETS, *VESPULA* SPP. (HYMEOPTERA: VESPIDAE),  
IN OREGON SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS**

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Ground-nesting yellowjackets (*Vespula* spp.) form annual colonies begun by a spring queen.

Species native to Oregon are a persistent pest in school environments from late summer to early fall when colonies peak in both size and aggressive foraging. Remediation of these and other pests in school environments involving use of a pesticide – by either school staff or a contracted professional – requires an applicator’s license as of July 2012 (ORS 634.700-634.750); however, licensing staff or contracting out for services is often beyond the scope of resources

for many Oregon school districts. In light of this, there is an emerging need for integrated pest management methods for ground-nesting yellowjackets that does not involve the use of pesticides.

Oregon school districts are innovating methods for remediation of these wasps, which involve preventative techniques, including staff education and sanitation, and also mechanical removal of established colonies. In addition, pilot research examining trap efficacy on spring queen *Vespula* spp. is underway by Oregon State University’s School IPM Program.



Photo courtesy of Kyle Goodman, Beaverton School District