

Insects II

Wasps, Aphids & Ladybirds

The **European Wasp** is also known as the German Yellowjacket and is about 13mm in length.



European Wasp, Lithgow in 2025
(Chris Jonkers)

Unlike bees, wasps can sting more than once. The sting from a European Wasp is probably the most painful of wasp stings.

While the European Wasp arrived in Australia in the 1950s, the **Asian Paper Wasp** only arrived about ten years ago.

Both wasps are similar in size and are black with bright yellow stripes. But where the European Wasp's antennae is black; the Asian Paper Wasp's is orange.

The European Wasp tends to build its nest in the ground or in rock crevasses. Whereas the Asian Paper Wasp builds paper-like structures hanging from eaves.



Asian Paper Wasp, Spring Farm, NSW in 2025 (Anthony Katon)

It is estimated that there are 100,000 species of wasps in the world with 12,000 being native Australian wasps.

Wasps tend to have narrow waists and long legs compared to bees.

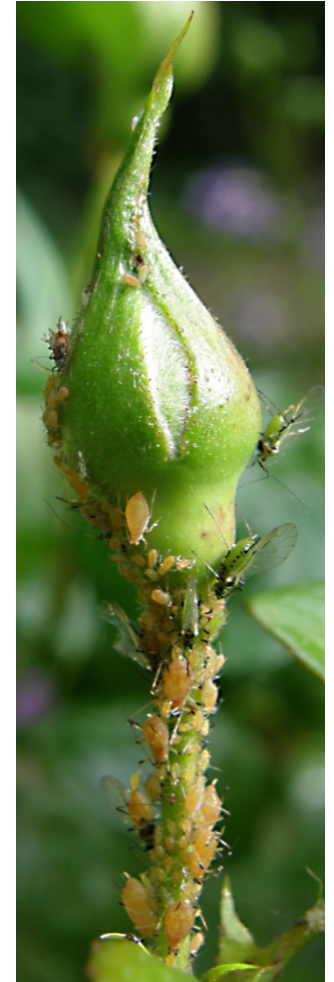
The world's smallest known insect is the male Fairy Wasp which is 0.14mm in length - the size of a grain of salt.

Aphids (a-fids). Most aphids in Australia have been introduced - probably as early as the First Fleet in 1788.

In spring, aphids seem to multiply before your very eyes - especially on rose buds.

This is because female aphids can give birth to live females (called nymphs) that may already be pregnant.

At other times, aphids may lay eggs or develop wings to fly to another plant.



Aphids, Leura in 2023



Large Spotted Ladybird, Richmond, NSW in 2025
(Emily Sonter)

Ladybirds are a natural predator of aphids. There's some 500 species of ladybird in Australia - most of which are native

The Large Spotted Ladybird is a native ladybird and is 6mm wide.

Look for wasps, ladybirds and aphids but please stay away from the wasps.

Have you seen a European Wasp or an Asian Paper Wasp?

Have you seen aphids?

Have you seen a ladybird?

Have you seen what you believe is a native wasp?

