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## Try detente with bugs, says stinging expert

Leave them alone and they'll leave you alone—that's the word on bees, wasps and other stinging insects from a Michigan State University entomo-logist

Signature of the state of the s

"It's hard not to get too close, and so defensive behavior can be a real problem." Hoopingamer notes Honey bees will sometimes build nests in the walls of buildings. Page teardrop-shaped, papery gray nests, and Po'ests wasps—the ones that constuct the three of four-inch in diameter nest that looks like a bunch of little tubes side by side—are often found around homes.

"A new pest on the home front is the yellow jacket." Hoopingamer notes. "We're not sure, but we think a new species is moving into the area. Unlike the nutive yellow jacket, which nests in the ground, the new species nests in the mass.

them in close contact with people. in-cidents of stinging are getting more

them in close contact with people, incidents of stinging are getting more corumon."

Physically, the new yellow jacket is very similar to the resident species. You have to know what you're looking for and get a lot closer than most people want to get to tell the two apart." the specialist says.

If nesting wasps or bees are posing a problem, take care of it now. Hoopingarmer advises. "At this time of year most level and work of the property o

Pajot joins Oakland

rid of because their size and populations are much smaller."

If you should happen to get stung, chances are that you'll get over the localized discomfort in a few minutes. Some people are extremely sensitive to stings, however, and may have only 20:40 minutes to get to a doctor or hospital for treatment.

"A first sling does not cause a violent reaction, but it begins the buildup of antibodies that cause later stings to set off the allergic response." Hoopingarner explains. "People with a history of allergies in their family should probably be tested for bee sting altercies if they're going to be in stuations where stings are fairly likely. People who know they are sensitive should avoid these kinds of situations as much as possible and und-reo a describitation programs under the direction of an altergist."

Stinss are more common as the summer progresses, not because the insects set grouchy in hot weather, but because there are more of them around. Hoopingarner says.

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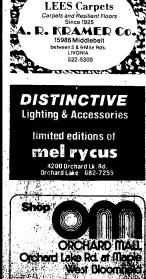
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