

## What is NOT an Africanized (feral) bee?



Wasp/Yellowjacket



Paper Wasp



Carpenter Bee



Mud Dauber

## Did you know...

When a bee's body is crushed by swatting, it produces an odor that incites other bees to attack in greater numbers!



### Maricopa County Environmental Services Department

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Please be advised that bees are considered a nuisance. For any bee-related problems please contact the property's landlord and if no resolution, you may contact us or visit [esd.maricopa.gov](http://esd.maricopa.gov)

*If you own your home or property please contact a bee removal professional.*



Working with our community to ensure  
a safe and healthy environment



Environmental Services  
Department

Rev. 7/2014

## Maricopa County Environmental Services Department

### "Bee" Safe



[esd.maricopa.gov](http://esd.maricopa.gov)

## Brief History

Africanized (feral) bees were first imported to Brazil in 1956. The colony started with 63 live queens. In October 1957 26 queens were released. Travelling up to 300 miles in a year, they were in Mexico by the 1980s



Africanized Bee

and Hidalgo Texas in October 1990. As of 2008, their found as far north as Utah.

## How are they different from "regular" bees?

Africanized colonies reproduce at a faster rate and are more aggressive. They are smaller than European honey bees and will nest anywhere it is safe. While they are quick to anger and work in large numbers, they can only sting once.

Vibrations up to 100 feet away may threaten the colony. They can pursue a victim for up to half a mile and stay agitated for up to an hour. However, they will not "hunt you down".

## Where do they nest?

- \* Holes or cracks in buildings
- \* Holes in trees
- \* Underneath mobile homes
- \* Flower pots
- \* Old tires
- \* Bird houses
- \* Barns or sheds
- \* Wood piles
- \* Where ever they feel safe!



## How to protect yourself

### Don't

- \* Wear bright flower clothing or dark fuzzy clothing
- \* Wear shorts and ankle socks
- \* Wear shiny jewelry
- \* Wear perfumes/colognes with a floral or sweet scent
- \* Climb on rocks, logs or trees
- \* Stand in the path of a nest
- \* Flail your arms
- \* Make loud noises or smoke



### Do

- \* Wear light colored clothing
- \* Wear full length socks and pants
- \* Wear long sleeve shirts
- \* Wear a hat
- \* Be aware of your surroundings—listen for a steady buzz
- \* Leave your vehicle unlocked



## What to do if attacked

- \* Run away quickly using a direct route
- \* Cover your head (protect mouth and nose).
- \* Get inside a vehicle or shelter
- \* Cover yourself with a blanket or bag



If a honey bee swarm stays on your property for longer than 24 hours, you should call your local pest control company to remove the bees. Vector Control Division of Maricopa County Environmental Services Department is not an Emergency Responder.