Stinging and Venomous Insects

Today on Gardening in a Minute: stinging and venomous insects.

Florida’s crawling with insects, and most of us have felt their bites and stings. They can cause pain, itching, and swelling in people who aren’t allergic, and for those with allergies they can be dangerous.

Bees and wasps will usually leave you alone, but can sting. If you’re stung by a bee, scrape out the stinger immediately. Wasps can sting multiple times, because they don’t leave their stingers behind.

Large stingers can also be found on the furry female velvet ant. And the aggressive fire ant packs a painful sting and can swarm quickly.

Florida is also home to several kinds of stinging caterpillars that have poisonous spines and are usually brightly colored.

Be on the lookout for these critters while outside enjoying the great outdoors!

For more information about this and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.