Wasps

Today on Gardening in a Minute: wasps.

You may think of wasps as pests, but they’re actually helpful. Wasps are beneficial because they attack harmful insects found around homes and gardens, like house flies and caterpillars.

Some wasps, such as mud daubers, usually won’t sting unless touched or bothered. But hornets and yellow jackets are more aggressive when disturbed.

Paper wasps build nests on the undersides of large-leaved plants or other sheltered locations, so pay attention when working in your landscape. Don’t ever walk barefoot in the yard, and keep sweet items like soft drinks and ripe fruit covered or indoors.

If you spot a wasp nest on or near your house, you may want to spray it with an insecticide that includes pyrethrum. Apply it at night and from a distance.

For more information about wasps, 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 Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.