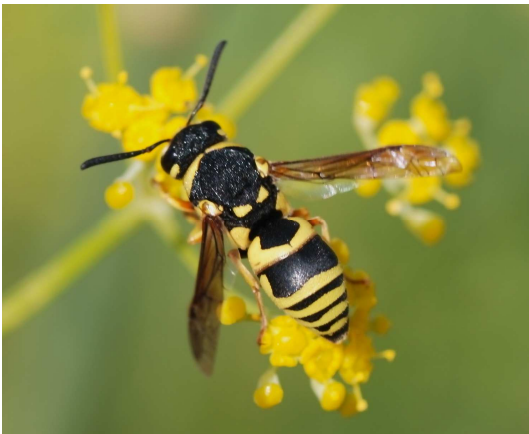




Info Sheet: European wasp trap

European wasps have become a regular pest in the Macedon Ranges during summer. Laurie Nichol of Metcalfe has been studying them for many years, and believes that homemade traps to catch the queen wasps in spring is the most effective method of control.

You just need a 1.25 litre soft drink bottle. Make three 8 mm holes about 10 cm from the bottom. Fill the bottle up to the holes with the bait, place the lid back on and hang from a tree or fence in your garden.



You will need to shake the bottle occasionally to ensure there's some attractant on the outside of the bottle, and remove the catch and top up the bait when required.

For the bait, some people use cat food mixed into water, but Laurie recommends a honey and water mix with a little pure vanilla essence. It's important not to trap valuable pollinators such as native and honey bees, and the cat food or vanilla essence are both used to keep them away.

You may need a few traps in your garden to do the job. And perhaps you could encourage your neighbours to do some as well.

You can also make simple fly and mosquito traps by cutting a soft drink bottle in half and inserting the top part inside the bottom. For mosquitoes dissolve $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar in a cup of warm water and add $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of yeast. For flies use cat food or raw meat in water.

If you want more information or would like to see a demonstration please contact Kyneton Transition Hub - KynetonTH@gmail.com or www.kynetontransitionhub.com - or phone Julie on 5422 3023.

