



German and common wasps are more than an unwelcome interruption to outdoor life. In high numbers, these invasive wasps can threaten native insects and birds, compete for natural food sources, affect beehives and create a serious stinging hazard around homes, farms, workplaces and recreational areas.

One New Zealand landowner's experience demonstrates just how substantial a local wasp population can become, and the difference that consistent trapping can make.

Effective

WASP CONTROL

From Spring Queens to 32,000+ Wasps Caught

"I did try the homemade lure recipe that gets handed around, but no way does it compare with the NoPests® Wasp Lure. The wasps were so attracted to it that they were even crawling over the lure container while I was trying to refill the traps."

Nikki Slade Robinson

Conservation volunteer and volunteer trustee, Ōhiwa Headland Sanctuary Trust (Opotiki district).

A Real-World Result: Approximately 32,000 Wasps Caught

During one summer season, approximately 32,000 wasps were captured using traps filled with NoPests® Wasp Lure.

The estimate was based on physically measuring the trapped wasps. Approximately 150 worker wasps filled one-quarter of a cup. Across the season, around 13 to 14 litres of trapped wasps were collected, equating to more than 32,000 wasps.

The property is located in an ecologically significant area where volunteers are actively involved in planting native trees, controlling weeds and running pest-trapping lines. Nikki Slade Robinson coordinates a local care group, lives on a Trees That Count and QEII property, and is a volunteer trustee of the Ōhiwa Headland Sanctuary Trust (Opotiki district).

As spring approaches, Nikki's aim is to trap queen wasps as they emerge and encourage other people in the surrounding area to operate wasp traps.

The attraction to the NoPests® Wasp Lure was unmistakable. Wasps were observed gathering around the lure container while traps were being refilled, demonstrating how readily they responded to the purpose-made attractant.

A homemade lure was also trialled during the season but, in Nikki's experience, it did not deliver results comparable with the NoPests® formulation. Wasps need walls and insulation in order to pupate and complete their life cycle. They always search for dark places.

Nikki's Experience

For Nikki Slade Robinson, the results confirmed the value of using a purpose-made wasp lure as part of ongoing conservation work.

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Conservation volunteer and volunteer trustee, Ōhiwa Headland Sanctuary Trust (Opotiki district).

The trapping programme also helped reveal the scale of the local problem. Five active nests, each approximately the size of a 10-litre bucket, were discovered within an estimated 500-metre radius and subsequently treated.

Why Early- Season Trapping Matters

Most German and common wasp colonies begin with a single queen.

After surviving winter in a sheltered location, a queen emerges and begins searching for food and a suitable place to establish her nest. During this early stage, she must forage for herself while raising the first generation of worker wasps.

This creates a valuable opportunity for early intervention.

Once enough workers have developed, the queen remains in the nest producing more wasps while the workers take over food collection. The colony can then expand rapidly throughout the warmer months.

Trapping queens as they begin moving in spring may prevent new nests from becoming established. Continuing to trap through summer can also help reduce the number of worker wasps foraging around properties, gardens, farms, bush margins and outdoor living areas.

The best time to begin depends on local conditions and temperatures. Having traps prepared and in position from late winter or early spring allows trapping to start as soon as queen activity is noticed.



Why German and Common Wasps Are a Problem

German and common wasps are introduced social wasps with distinctive yellow-and-black markings. Unlike bees, they can sting repeatedly and may respond aggressively when their nest is disturbed.

Large wasp populations can:

- Prey on native insects and other small animals.
- Compete with native wildlife for food.
- Attack bees and interfere with beehives.
- Create risks for people working or spending time outdoors.
- Make tracks, gardens, picnic areas and recreational spaces unpleasant or unsafe.
- Pose a particularly serious danger to people with a known allergy to wasp stings.

An individual trap will not solve a widespread wasp problem on its own, but strategically placed traps can form a useful part of an ongoing local control programme.

NoPests® Wasp Lure: A Purpose-Made Attractant

NoPests® Wasp Lure is a scientifically formulated, non-toxic liquid attractant developed for common and German wasps.

The lure attracts wasps into the trap, where they become contained and drown in the liquid. It does not rely on an insecticidal poison.

Importantly, the formulation is designed not to attract bees or paper wasps. This makes it a more targeted option than sweet homemade mixtures, which may attract unintended insects if they are not prepared or monitored carefully.

The lure is available in one-litre and five-litre pack sizes, making it suitable for individual traps as well as larger trapping programmes across farms, reserves, commercial sites and community conservation areas.

Although the lure is non-toxic, it should still be handled responsibly. Always read and follow the product label, keep it away from children and avoid leaving spilled lure on the outside of the trap.



The Reusable NoPests® Wasp Dome Trap

The NoPests® Wasp Dome Trap is designed for outdoor use with NoPests® Wasp Lure, which is sold separately.

Its clear upper dome and yellow funnel-shaped base allow attracted wasps to enter the trap from below. Once inside, they become contained in the trapping chamber.

The trap is:

- Reusable and refillable.
- Designed for common and German wasps.
- Suitable for hanging outdoors.
- Easy to inspect through the clear dome.
- Intended for use with NoPests® Wasp Lure.
- Not designed to capture paper wasps.



The combination of the specially formulated liquid lure and reusable dome trap provides a convenient system that can be checked, emptied and refilled throughout the trapping season.



Your Wasp Trap

Correct placement and regular monitoring can make a considerable difference to trapping results.

Choose a Suitable Location

Place or hang the trap where German or common wasps are already foraging or flying. On rural properties and larger blocks, useful locations may include bush-pasture margins, sunny clearings, ridgelines and areas where wasp activity has previously been noticed.

Avoid positioning traps immediately beside doors, frequently used seating areas or busy pathways.

Use Warmth to Activate the Lure

Some sunlight can help warm the liquid and increase the release of its attractive scent. However, a position exposed to intense sun throughout the entire day may cause the lure to evaporate more quickly.

A warm, partly sunny location is generally a practical starting point.

Check Traps Regularly

Inspect traps at least weekly during periods of high activity. Check the lure level, empty the trap when necessary and refresh the liquid in accordance with the product directions.

Wipe away any lure spilled on the outside of the trap, as residue may attract ants or other insects.

Confirm Which Wasps Are Being Caught

NoPests® Wasp Lure and the NoPests® Wasp Dome Trap are intended for German and common wasps.

They are not designed for paper wasps, which are more slender and have noticeably narrow waists and long legs.

Do Not Disturb an Active Nest

Trapping foraging wasps is different from treating a nest. Never approach, strike or disturb an active nest, particularly if it is large, difficult to access or located in a frequently used area.

Wasps defending a nest can attack in numbers and sting repeatedly. People who are allergic to wasp stings should not attempt nest control. Contact an experienced pest-control professional if there is any doubt about managing a nest safely.



A Practical Tool for Properties and Conservation Projects

The capture of approximately 32,000 wasps in one season shows how quickly wasp numbers can build in a relatively small area. It also demonstrates the value of combining early queen trapping with continued monitoring and trapping throughout the warmer months.

For landowners, farmers, community groups, conservation volunteers and anyone managing an outdoor site, the NoPests® Wasp Dome Trap and NoPests® Wasp Lure provide a reusable, targeted and straightforward approach to common and German wasp trapping.

Starting early, positioning traps carefully and checking them regularly can help reduce local wasp activity while supporting safer outdoor spaces and ongoing efforts to protect New Zealand's biodiversity.

Find Out More

[NoPests® Wasp Lure](#) - available in one-litre and five-litre pack sizes.

[NoPests® Wasp Dome Trap](#) - reusable outdoor trap. Lure sold separately.

Always read and follow the product label. NoPests® Wasp Lure and the NoPests® Wasp Dome

Trap are intended for common and German wasps and are not suitable for paper wasps.

Field observations and trapping results supplied by Nikki Robinson. Article prepared by Key Industries Ltd.

