

Wood-infesting Hymenoptera: Carpenter Ants and Carpenter Bees

Dr. Laurel Hansen, Adjunct Professor, Spokane Falls Comm. College

Several species of carpenter ants occur in Virginia and will infest moisture-damaged and solid wood. These social ants produce large colonies and will mine wood for brood space but forage for food outside the structure. Knowledge of the life cycle and behavior provides clues for management employing IPM strategies for identification of nesting and foraging sites. Carpenter bees, another hymenopteran, also will excavate wood and can be particularly pestiferous.