

## Companies keep trying to take sting out of gardens

### GARDENING



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Photo by Paul Church  
 The Courier-Tribune

You hear all kinds of homemade solutions to garden pest problems over the years.

You know that idea of putting Juicy Fruit gum down mole holes? Doesn't work. Neither does the thumping of yard-sized windmills. You'll hear all kinds of testimonials about somebody's second cousin's friend or a long-dead uncle who had

success with this stuff. But there's no real proof when it is tested, empirically.

A big, ol' mole hunting dog or cat — now, that works.

There's a couple of new ideas for getting rid of pesty, stinging insects this year — one I'm not so sure of; the other sounds feasible.

When I saw the promo for a contraption that is supposed to scare off paper wasps, I was skeptical. I'm still skeptical because I don't have

\$19.98 (you have to order two from the company's website) plus

shipping and handling to spend on something that looks suspiciously like it shouldn't cost more than a buck or two.

Never mind whether it will scare away paper wasps.

Besides, it doesn't look like a paper wasp nest. It looks like a bald face hornet's nest. Maybe wasps can't tell the difference. Or maybe they're offended when hornets move into the area.

Anyway, it's called the Original Waspinator from Contech.

The idea is wasps are territorial. This device "sends the message to passing wasps to stay away because the territory is already claimed." You simply hang it wherever you have a problem with wasps.

On the plus side, there are no chemicals involved. You don't have to track wasps down.

Just hang the con-

traption where you know or suspect wasps gather.

Several people have posted online reviews claiming it works. Maybe it does. But I keep looking at it and wondering if a gray plastic shopping

bag, blown up like a balloon, won't do the same thing.

I don't have a problem with paper wasps so I can't test my theory. If you would like to learn more about the Waspinator, go to Contech Outdoor Insect Control at [www.waspinator.com](http://www.waspinator.com).

The other idea is backed by the ARS, a department of the USDA.

Sold commercially as the RESCUE! W-H-Y Trap (Wasps, Hornets and Yellowjackets), this product is based on chemical lures.

The trap is designed with two compartments. The bottom is baited with an attractant that



primarily lures western and southern yellowjackets. The top uses a different attractant blend to lure other yellowjacket species, bald-faced hornets, European hornets and paper wasps.

Once inside, the pests die by drowning or dehydration, depending on the compartment. Ben-

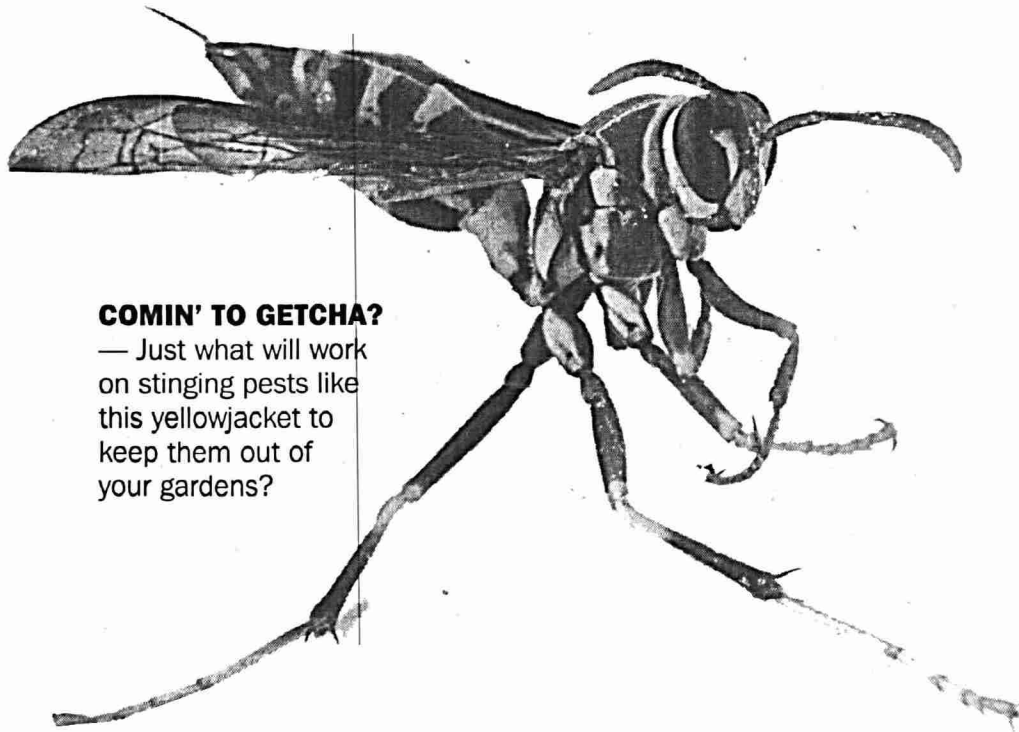
eficial insects, including honey bees, are not attracted to the traps.

You can buy the W-H-Y trap at major retailers. Sounds good, but fellow staff writer Mary Anderson said she has her doubts. She said it sounds suspiciously like those infamous Japa-

nese beetle traps. We all know the common logic of those.

Buy one and give it to the neighbors.

■ **J.D. Walker's** garden column appears each Thursday. **Contact:** 626-6118 or [jdwalker@courier-tribune.com](mailto:jdwalker@courier-tribune.com)



## COMIN' TO GETCHA?

— Just what will work on stinging pests like this yellowjacket to keep them out of your gardens?