

WASP AND BEE STINGS

Due to the nature of Hillwood's activities, wasps and bees are a normal part of the environment. Wasp and bee stings will happen from time to time. The following guidelines offer information on how to avoid a wasp or bee sting and what to do in the event of a sting incident. If ever stung by a bee or a wasp at Hillwood, you should follow the injury reporting procedures previously noted in this handbook.

In general bees sting to protect their hive and seldom sting when they are out foraging unless they feel threatened (like being swatted at or stepped on). On the other hand, a large number of bees or wasps foraging in one area may indicate a colony is nearby. If you intend to be in the area, scout the area for bee/wasp habitat first. If you are unsure, please contact a member of the horticulture supervisory staff.

Colonies vary in behavior over time, especially with changes in season, becoming more aggressive and easily agitated in the late summer and fall. You may pass the same colony for weeks and then one day provoke them unexpectedly. Bees and wasps nest in a wide variety of locations, such as pipes, holes, behind shutters, under shingles, cracks and crevices within trees and rocks, and hanging from branches. Be alert for groups of flying bees entering or leaving an opening and listen for buzzing sounds. Be especially alert when climbing, digging, working outdoors.

DO NOT put your hands where you can't see them! Be particularly careful when using any heavy equipment that produces sound vibrations, such as chainsaws, weed eaters or mowers. Keep escape routes in mind.

Allergic or Life Threatening Reactions: If an employee or volunteer has a known history of generalized allergic reactions to bee or wasp stings, they shall obtain from his or her personal physician an epinephrine or antihistamine injection kit and be familiar with its use for self-administration prior to assuming volunteer duties. In addition, they should wear a medical alert type of bracelet or pendant warning of the allergy while on Hillwood property and they also must notify his or her supervisor of this condition.

Prevention:

- Avoid fast, abrupt movements, such as waving your arms when wasps are in the vicinity.
- Wasps are attracted to sweet smells. Do not wear perfume or aftershave or perfumed cosmetics or lotions when outdoors.
- When eating outdoors, keep food enclosed. Wasps are attracted to proteins and to sweets.
- Check soda cans and the rims of drinking glasses before raising them to your mouth.
- Grey, white or red clothing should be worn to reduce attractiveness.
- Long sleeve shirts and long pants should be worn to minimize exposed areas.
- If a bee or wasp becomes trapped in a vehicle, the driver should stop and remove the insect from the vehicle.

Response:

If a few bees are flying around you, stay calm and slowly walk away from the area. Swatting at an insect may cause it to sting. If a bee or wasp stings you, or many insects start to fly around, cover

your mouth and nose and quickly leave the area. When a bee stings, it releases a chemical that attracts other bees. If you can, get into a building or closed vehicle.

If you have disturbed a nest and are being attacked, run away. Use your shirt or an article of clothing to protect your head, neck and face! Again, swatting and waving your arms aggravates bees and wasps more!

If stung, and you have a known history of a generalized allergic response or if you start having signs and symptoms of a generalized allergic response, begin any medical protocols approved by your physician and call security for immediate assistance.

If stung by a honeybee, remove the stinger carefully to prevent any more venom from being injected into the body. If stung by a wasp, check for stinger and if present remove carefully.