

LANCASTER — Wasps are very much in evidence this time of year when sizes of nests and populations are near their maximum. Hornets, yellow jackets, polistes, mud daubers, and cicada killers are all wasps and are considered to be beneficial insects because they destroy harmful insects around homes and gardens. However, if they chance to construct their nests close to (or in) houses and near used yard areas, wasps definitely pose a problem and should be destroyed.

The nests of wasps have characteristic forms and are found

in a variety of locations. Hornets and yellow jackets build football shaped, papery nests which may be found in trees, shrubs and under eaves.

Polistes build papery, "honeycombed" nests in similar locations, mud daubers build mud-cell nests, but stay away from trees and shrubs, preferring locations under eaves and porch roofs, behind shutters and in attics. Yellow jackets more frequently build nests in the ground as do cicada killers. But cicada killers are solitary wasps (as are mud daubers) while yellow jackets live

in colonies (as do hornets and polistes.) Cicada killers and mud daubers are not considered to be aggressive. The other wasps, by nature and numbers are a greater hazard.

Several insecticides are available for wasp control. In general, a spray is used for above ground nests and a dust for in ground nests and hidden nests, within walls for example. Several commercial wasp sprays are available. Sevin may be used as a spray and is recommended for dusting procedures. Products containing resmethrin are also

recommended. After treatment, the opening as in ground nests should be covered with moist soil. Do not plug openings to wall nests after treatment until no activity is noticed for several days.

If a nest is in an out of the way area, you might as well leave it alone. Wasps abandon their nests and die off when cold weather arrives, they do not re-use their nests.

SCRANTON — June Reed has joined the Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Service staff and has been appointed Extension home economist for Lackawanna County, according to Tom Jurchak, Lackawanna County Extension director.

In her position Mrs. Reed will be responsible for Extension program development in the areas of family living, nutrition education and youth, including 4-H programs.

A native of Beaver Falls, she attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is a recent graduate of the Pennsylvania State University in home economics education.

Previously she has been a substitute teacher in the Beaver County School District and served as acting Extension home economist in Beaver County. She is a member of the American and the Pennsylvania Home Economics Association, Phi Upsilon Omicron, home economics honor society; and the Penn State Education Alumni Association.

Her husband, Denny, and two children, Shelley and Christopher,



June Reed

live in Beaver Falls.

In Lackawanna County, she will be associated with other staff members including William Kleiner, assistant county agent; Joseph Macialek, area community development agent; as well as Tom Jurchak, senior extension agent, at the Lackawanna County Cooperative Extension Service at 200 Adams Avenue, Scranton.



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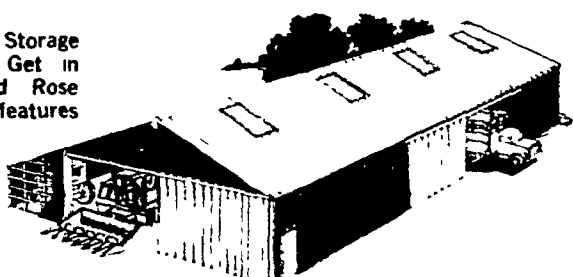
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