



A weekly question/answer column

Readers Ask Questions About Wasps, Apples and Pesticides

USU Extension Specialists answer:

New Wasp Species?

Q. I have captured an insect that appears to be part wasp and part praying mantis. It has the head and front limbs of a mantis and the body and wings of a wasp or yellow jacket. Its coloration is not like you would expect from a normal wasp but somewhat subdued. Do you have any classifications of this insect? This is the strangest thing I have ever seen!

A. You have a mantisfly belonging to the family Mantispidae, Order Neuroptera. The common species we are finding this year is *Climiciella brunnea*. They are harmless except to the many insects upon which they feed. They are very good predators and eat many insects, good and bad.
- Dr. Jay B Karren, USU Extension Entomologist

Is this Product Safe?

Q. My nursery supplier has told me to use ECHO 720 (tetrachloroisophthalonitrile) on my hydroponic tomato crop to control botritis caused by trimming the lower leaves off. The label on this product only lists uses for ornamentals and turf crops and states that it is extremely toxic. Should I not use this on my food crop?

A. You should not use the product on your food crop. Only pesticides specifically labeled for specific food crops can legally be applied to food crops. You were given inaccurate advice by the nursery supplier.
- Howard Deer, USU Extension Pesticide Specialist

Will My Apple Trees Pollinate?

Q. I recently planted three apple trees in my yard. One is a red delicious, one a granny smith and the third is a grafted tree with golden delicious, gala and johnnygolds. Will my trees pollinate, or do I need two of each species?

A. All of the apple varieties listed will cross pollinate each other. The only apple varieties that don't cross pollinate belong to the Winesap family.
- Tony Hatch, USU Extension Fruit Specialist
