



COOPER 'S GUIDE TO YELLOW JACKET TRAPPING

This guide provides in-depth instructions so you can have a successful yellow jacket trapping season.

Cooper Pest Solutions wishes you a *successful* program.

When to begin trapping

Yellow Jacket trapping is most effective beginning in Mid-July and will increase in effectiveness as the summer draws on.

Trapping will be effective through October.

Types of baits

Every Yellow Jacket population is different. Some populations are strongly attracted to sweets; others are attracted to fermentation products such as beer. We have found that beer is the most commonly accepted attractant among Yellow Jackets. Through our extensive research we have learned that a 50% beer, 50% fruit punch works on most populations.

BEFORE MID-JULY

Trapping programs are not recommended before mid-July. However, if you wish to attempt the trapping program you should utilize proteins. The following baits have been found to be most effective. Traps using protein baits catch flies in greater quantities than the yellow jackets caught.

- ◆ Canned Mackerel
- ◆ Liverwurst

MID-JULY THROUGH OCTOBER

From mid-July on, fermentation products and carbohydrates are most effective. There are a variety of baits that can be used. The effectiveness of each will be greatly dependent on the surrounding environment. Possible baits are:

Most reliable bait

- ◆ Fruit Punch or fruit punch concentrates and beer mixed in a 1:1 ratio

Other bait options

- ◆ Beer
- ◆ Lemonade (using a strong mixture)
- ◆ Watered Down Jellies (mix grape jelly with water to thin it to create a watery jelly mixture)
- ◆ Coke® or Pepsi® (Cola Soda)

Why mix fruit punch & beer

Extensive Yellow Jacket trapping was conducted at Waterfront Park in Trenton, NJ. The results clearly demonstrated that a mixture of juice concentrate and beer catches significantly more Yellow Jackets than any other combination. In addition, the beer component helps deplete the oxygen in the traps, killing the Yellow Jackets more efficiently.

Filling your traps

Before filling your traps lightly grease the inside of the jar. Vaseline should be lightly smeared inside the jar creating a 2-3" band just below the mouth of the jar. This makes it more difficult for Yellow Jackets to escape from any of your traps. While escape is not common, greasing the trap reduces the number of escapees.

You should put approximately 6 ounces of liquid in each container (example: 1/2 can beer per trap). Refill the containers before the liquid evaporates. Do not wait until the liquid becomes syrupy, this makes cleaning the traps more difficult.

If using proteins (mackerel or liverwurst) cover the bottom of the trap with 1/2" of the bait and replace bait before it becomes crusty or moldy.

Determining how many traps to use and where to place them

Research conducted by our staff Entomologist, Richard Cooper, has demonstrated that Yellow Jacket flight patterns orient into sunny locations. The key to Yellow Jacket trapping is to intercept their flight patterns. Traps placed in the flight patterns will catch the majority of your Yellow jacket population. Therefore, don't be surprised if the majority of the yellow jackets are trapped in a small percentage of the traps that you place out.

1. AREAS ON THE PROPERTY TO PLACE TRAPS:

- ◆ Areas of your yard that you are most active in (backyard, deck, pool etc.)
- ◆ Areas where open garbage may be present
- ◆ Areas where food will be held or prepared (barbecue, picnic table etc.)
- ◆ Other "Hot Spots" Areas on your property that don't have any apparent attraction, but that you know have frequent yellow jacket activity.

2. HOW MANY TRAPS?

- ◆ Place traps at 15-25 foot intervals around perimeter of the areas you want to protect
- ◆ Place extra traps near areas where food will be or where garbage is kept.
- ◆ **Place the majority of the traps in sunny locations Not In the Shade.**

3. INTERCEPTING YELLOW JACKET FLIGHT PATTERNS

- ◆ Determine which traps are catching the most Yellow Jackets and add more traps to that area of the property. (You may move traps that are not catching large numbers of Yellow Jackets and add them to areas where you have intercepted flying patterns)
- ◆ If you are not catching Yellow Jackets after two sunny days, you need to move the traps to new locations or try a different attractant.

You can be creative with trap placement if you do not want them out in plain site. By placing traps on low stakes they can be hidden from view. However, the traps can be a hazard to children and animals. If the trap is opened by a child or chewed open by an animal, and live yellow jackets are inside, serious injury may occur to the child or animal.

If you need help with your trap placement you can consult with a Cooper Pest Solutions representative to provide you with specific recommendations for your property.

How to mount the traps and how high

The traps can be hung from a hook or you can tie a piece of twine around the neck of the bottle and tie the bottle to either a nail in a garden stake or whatever object you intend to hang the bottle from.

1. **Stakes.** Traps can be mounted on a stake (5' x 1/2" x 1/2"). These can be purchased at your local building supply store or can be purchased directly through Cooper Pest Solutions (shipping not available outside of Mercer County, NJ). A nail can easily be driven into the stake to hang the trap.
2. **Hanging in a tree.** When hanging in a tree it is advisable that you place them in reaching distance. Remember that you will need to refill and empty these traps and if they are not within reaching distance you will need a step ladder every time to maintain the traps. In addition you want to be sure that the traps are in direct sunlight and are not being shaded by the tree.
3. **Trap Height.** Traps work effectively from as low as 2 feet from the ground to as high as 15 feet in the air. Most traps are usually placed between the 5 - 8 feet off the ground. It is important to remember to Keep The Traps Out of the Reach of Children.

Two methods for EMPTYING your traps

****NOTE: If a fermentation product (such as beer) is part of your mixture, oxygen in the container will be depleted causing the Yellow Jackets to die more quickly**

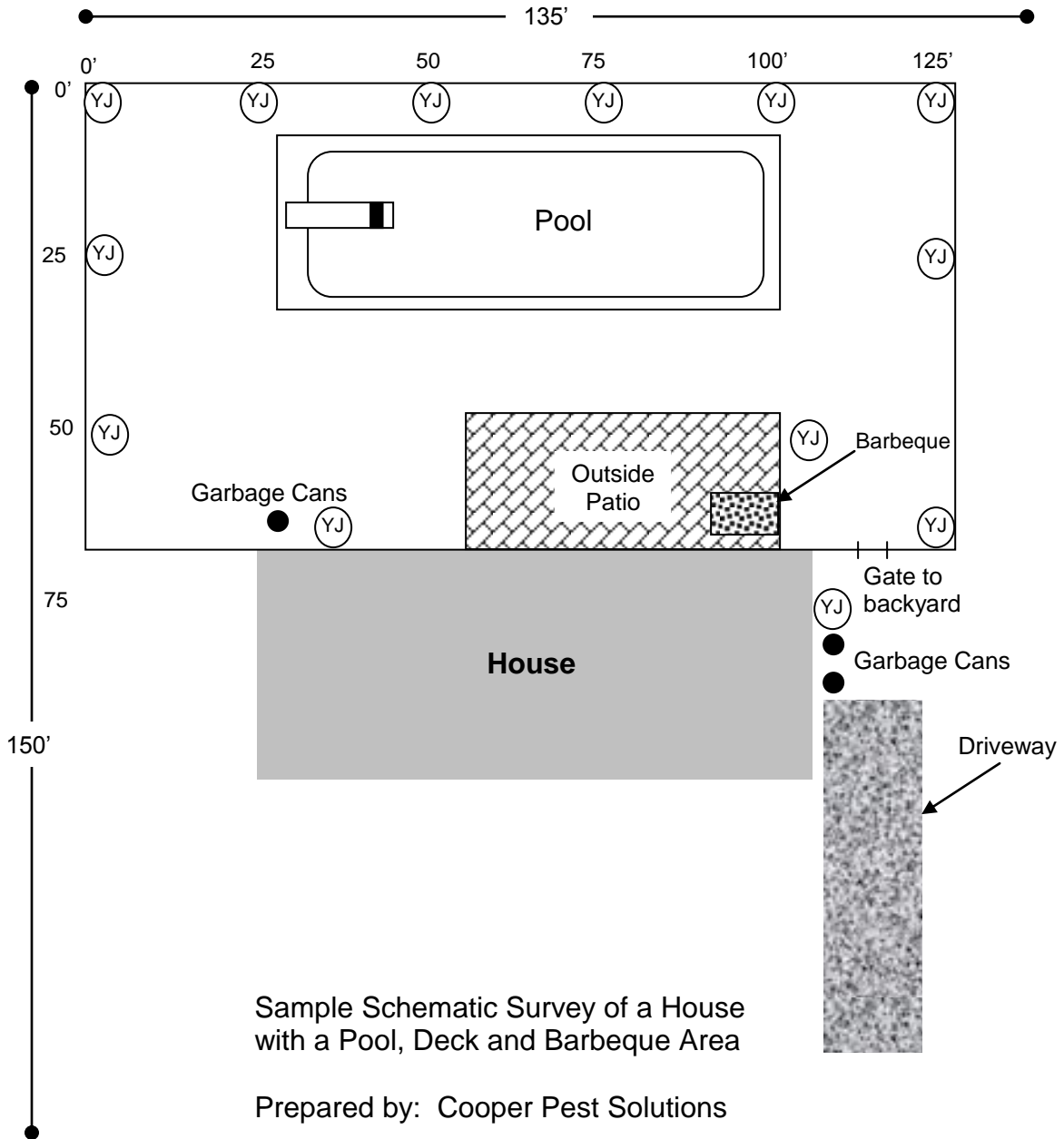
METHOD 1 IMMOBILIZE AND EMPTY. THIS IS THE MOST CONVENIENT AND EASY METHOD TO USE.

- ◆ If there is 2" of fluid left in the jar this method will work.
- ◆ Swish the liquid around the jar so the yellow jackets become wet and are submersed in the liquid.
- ◆ Open trap and empty the contents into a container filled with soapy water.
- ◆ Be sure once the trap is empty that the lid does not have liquid on it. If liquid is near the holes on the black surface new Yellow Jackets captured may learn how to get out of the trap. If liquid is on this area, clean the lid before refilling.

METHOD 2: ANESTHETIZE YELLOW JACKETS AND EMPTY INTO SOAPY WATER SOLUTION

This is the preferred method to reduce the chance of accidental stinging.

- ◆ Fill a bucket with one gallon of soapy water.
- ◆ Take the yellow jacket trap and put it into a plastic bag.
- ◆ Place the trap in your freezer for 10 minutes; this will immobilize the yellow jackets.
- ◆ Take trap out of freezer & immediately empty contents (liquid and yellow jackets) into the soapy water.
- ◆ Repeat with remaining traps.
- ◆ The soapy water in the bucket will kill the immobilized yellow jackets.

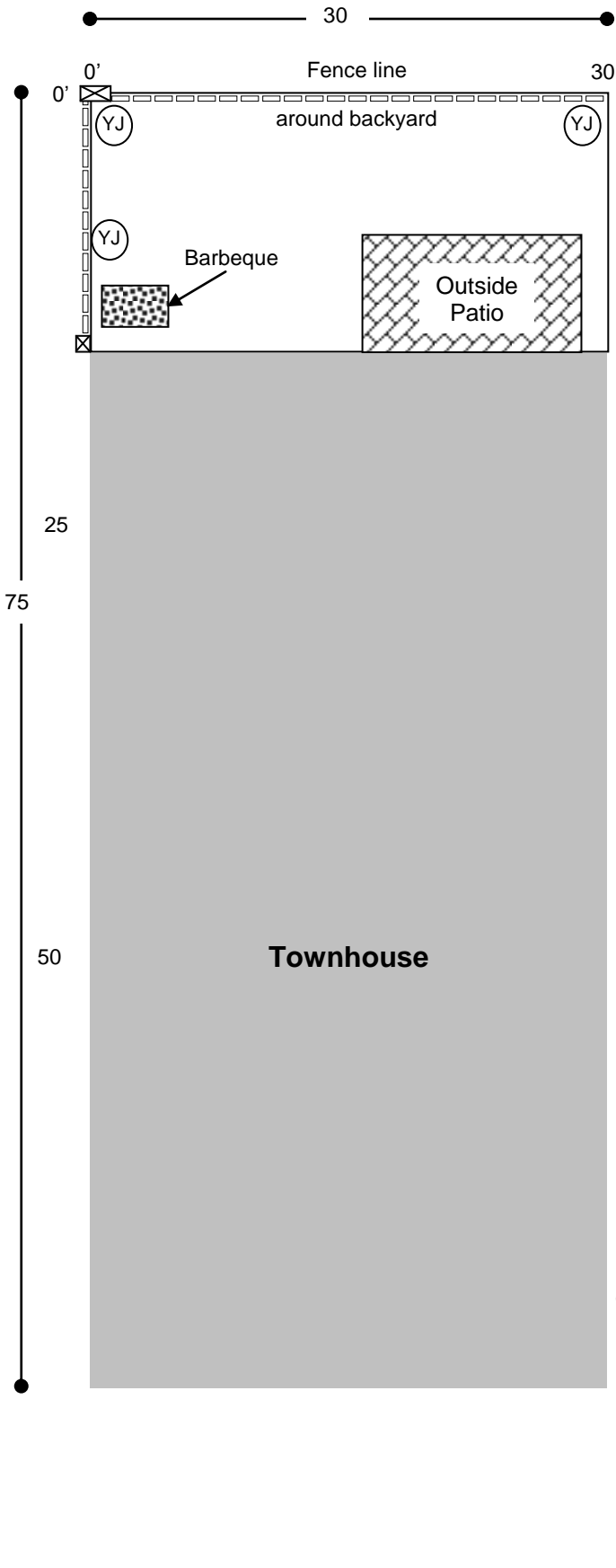


Sample Schematic Survey of a House with a Pool, Deck and Barbeque Area

Prepared by: Cooper Pest Solutions

June 28, 2005

LEGEND: (YJ) = Yellow Jacket Trap



Sample Schematic Survey of a Townhouse with a Porch and a Barbeque

Prepared by: Cooper Pest Solutions

June 28, 2005

LEGEND: (YJ) = Yellow Jacket Trap

