

Almond seed wasp

What is it?

The Almond seed wasp (*Eurytoma amygdali*) is capable of infecting up to 80% of almond crops, resulting in reductions in both yield and quality of the crop.

This pest is difficult to control and if it were to become established in Australia there would be considerable additional management costs incurred for re-shaking orchards each year, monitoring, trapping and insecticidal applications. Organophosphates have not been successful in controlling the pest in Europe.

What to look for?

In Europe, the Almond seed wasp has one generation per year, with larvae overwintering in mummies. The adults emerge in spring through a tiny circular exit hole in the mummies. These holes are the best evidence of the presence of this pest.

The adults mate and lay eggs in the young, developing, green fruit. Larvae of this wasp remain in that fruit and are therefore protected from applied contact insecticide sprays. They eat the developing nuts.



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Emergence of female Almond seed wasp from an almond



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Female Almond seed wasp ovipositing in an almond

Where is it found?

The wasp is currently found in Europe, Asia, North America and the Middle East. It is thought to have originated in Asia and it arrived in France in 1980 where it has had a significant impact on their almond crops.



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Almond seed wasp larva inside the almond

What is the best protection for my orchard?

Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common pests so you can tell if you see something different.

Inspect all mummies and remove as many as possible following harvest. Neglected orchards and feral almonds should be reported to your local department of primary industries.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.



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Larva removed from an almond in winter

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**

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