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YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

The Plant Protection Division (PPD) team continues to monitor Yellow-legged Hornet (YLH) activity. While the number of hornet sightings has decreased as the season winds down, the team remains vigilant in tracking any remaining activity and searching for nests. Beekeepers who notice hawking behavior are encouraged to report it to us at yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov.

Since the publication of the last Yellow-legged Ledger, the PPD team has successfully eradicated four Yellow-legged Hornet nests in the Savannah area. Notably, one nest was discovered in an unused BBQ grill, while the other three were located atop trees in residential neighborhoods.



IMG_0293.MOV

(Above: Video showing the discovery of a Yellow-legged hornet nest found in an unused BBQ grill. The nest was successfully eradicated.)



(Pictured: Two Yellow-legged Hornet nests discovered atop a pine and oak tree in Savannah, which were successfully eradicated in early November.)

UPDATE BY THE NUMBERS

New Traps Deployed: 17

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – November 7, 2024): 1,188

Hornets found (October 25 – November 7, 2024): 112

Nests found & eradicated (October 25 – November 7, 2024): 4

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – November 7, 2024): 49

- January 2024 – November 7, 2024: 4 embryo nests, 3 primary nests, 37 secondary nests
 - Total: 44
- August 2023 - December 2023: 5 secondary nests

HELPFUL RESOURCES

How to Report Sightings and Nests:

As always, we are grateful for the public's help in contacting us as soon as they find a nest. We continue to encourage all Georgians to report any hornet sightings or suspected nests by emailing us at yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov or using our online reporting [form](#).

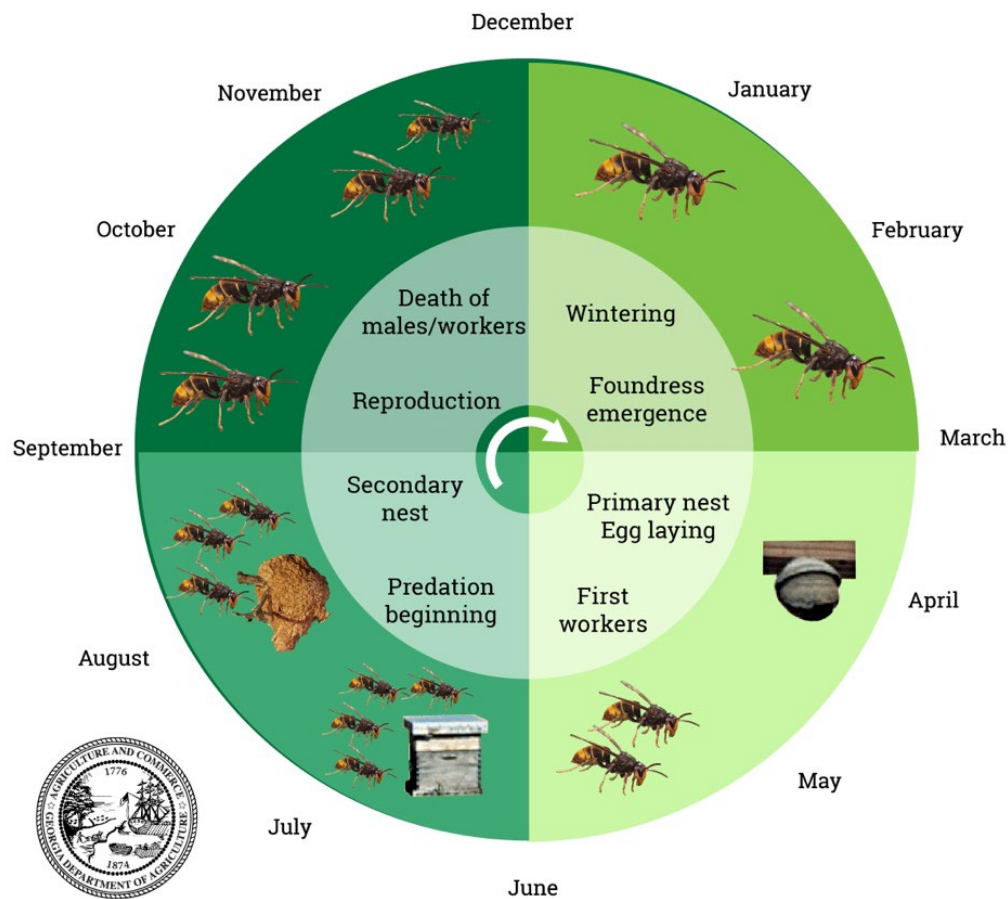


Terms to Know:

- **Embryo Nests** are built by queens so that they can begin forming a colony and often are the size of a tennis ball. Embryo nests are usually found in early spring.
- **Primary Nests** are nests built by worker hornets once they emerge from embryo nests. They can be the size of a grapefruit. Primary nests are usually found in early summer.
- **Secondary Nests**, the final stage of a hornet colony, are much larger than embryo and primary nests. These nests, often found atop trees and larger than a basketball, were successfully eradicated from the Savannah area in 2023. They typically appear from late summer to fall.

Yellow-legged Hornet Life Cycle:

Here is a diagram illustrating the life cycle of the yellow-legged hornet. Currently, they are progressing as expected and constructing secondary nests.



Source: Monceau, Karine & Thiery, Denis. (2016). *Vespa velutina*: current situation and perspectives. *Atti della academia nazionale Italiana di Entomologia*.

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Join the Georgia Hornet Watch Facebook Group:

A promotional graphic for the Georgia Hornet Watch Facebook group. The background is a dark, close-up image of a yellow-legged hornet. In the upper left, there is a yellow shield with a white outline, containing a black hornet silhouette with a white diagonal slash through it. To the right of the shield, the words "GEORGIA HORNET WATCH" are written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a yellow rectangular box contains the text "Join the GDA's dedicated yellow-legged hornet Facebook group to get the latest information!" in black. At the bottom left of the graphic is the Facebook logo (a white 'f' in a blue circle). To its right is a dark grey search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text "GEORGIA HORNET WATCH". At the very bottom, the URL "facebook.com/groups/georghornetgroup" is written in white.

(Click [here](https://agr.georgia.gov/yellow-legged-hornet) to join.)

We appreciate your assistance in helping us eradicate this serious threat to Georgia's agriculture, our state's number one industry. For more information, visit GDA's Dedicated Yellow-legged Hornet webpage: <https://agr.georgia.gov/yellow-legged-hornet>.