



YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

Overwinter Update

In December 2025, trap detections declined, coinciding with a period of very cold temperatures, including several days in the teens and low 20s. During this time, there was a stretch of approximately 20 days with no positive detections—similar to Winter 2024, when no hornets were captured for about two weeks.

Activity has since resumed. Last week, a hornet believed to be a queen was captured, bringing the total number of queens trapped this year to five.

Most recently, the Plant Protection team identified a yellow-legged hornet (YLH) queen in Statesboro (Bulloch County). This discovery has prompted an expansion of trapping efforts in the area. GDA currently has approximately 3,100 traps deployed statewide, including about 900 added since January 1. Many of the new traps have been placed in Bulloch County, particularly near the Statesboro site.

As of this week, GDA has 11 part-time trappers in the field and continues to review additional applications. The agency's goal is to expand to 15–16 part-time trappers, along with two full-time positions, in addition to existing permanent staff. Open positions can be found at:

<https://careers.georgia.gov/>.

2026 Yellow-legged Hornet Spring Season Update: Stay Alert and Help Protect Our Bees

The 2026 Yellow-legged Hornet season is in full swing, and our Plant Protection team is actively monitoring the situation. As in previous years, we encourage all beekeepers to keep a close eye on their hives for signs of hawking behavior.

Issue 42: December 17, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Important reminders:

- Monitoring beehives should be ongoing throughout the entire year.
- While hawking can happen at any time, it tends to peak before noon and again after 5 PM.

The more detailed information beekeepers and the public can share—such as the direction the hornets are flying—the faster we can locate and address the nests.

If you'd like to help, feel free to set up a [DIY trap](#). The bait usually ferments within a day or two and is designed to minimize attraction to bees. Please report any hornet activity detected in Georgia directly to us via email (yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov) or [online](#). If you're outside Georgia, contact your state's Department of Agriculture.

Also, be on the lookout for early-stage (embryo) nests, especially in coastal Georgia and in Bulloch, Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty counties.

 **BOLO** 
YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET



Description: Smooth, paper-like nests
the size of a ping-pong ball

Last Seen: Outside on sheds and porches

Report a Sighting: bit.ly/Report-YLH

Together, we can protect our state's pollinators!

Update by the Numbers:

New Traps Deployed (Since January 2026): 1,054

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – March 31, 2026): 3,165

Hornets found (December 18, 2025 – March 31, 2026): 445

- (292 queens trapped since Feb. 25; 153 YLH were trapped in January).

Nests found & eradicated (December 18, 2025 – March 31, 2026): 4

- (two (2) 2025 nests found in January; 3 embryo nests found in March)

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Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – March 31, 2026): 121

- 2026: 1 2025 secondary nest; 2 embryo nests found
- 2025: 4 embryo nests, 5 primary nests, 53 secondary nests
- 2024: 4 embryo nests, 3 primary nests, 40 secondary nests
- 2023: 5 secondary nests

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>.