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YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

Since our last update, the Plant Protection team has successfully eradicated 10 yellow-legged hornet nests. Among these was the first confirmed secondary nest of the 2026 season, which was located and eradicated by the team on July 6 on Skidaway Island.

We encourage all Georgians to remain vigilant and report any suspected yellow-legged hornet nests or hawking behavior around beehives as soon as possible. Early detection is critical to containing the spread of this invasive pest. If you believe you have spotted a nest or observed yellow-legged hornet activity, please contact the Plant Protection Division immediately at yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov.

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.



Yasmine Moffett, PPD Inspector, with a YLH nest that was removed from Midtown Savannah on July 6, 2026. (Photo by GDA)

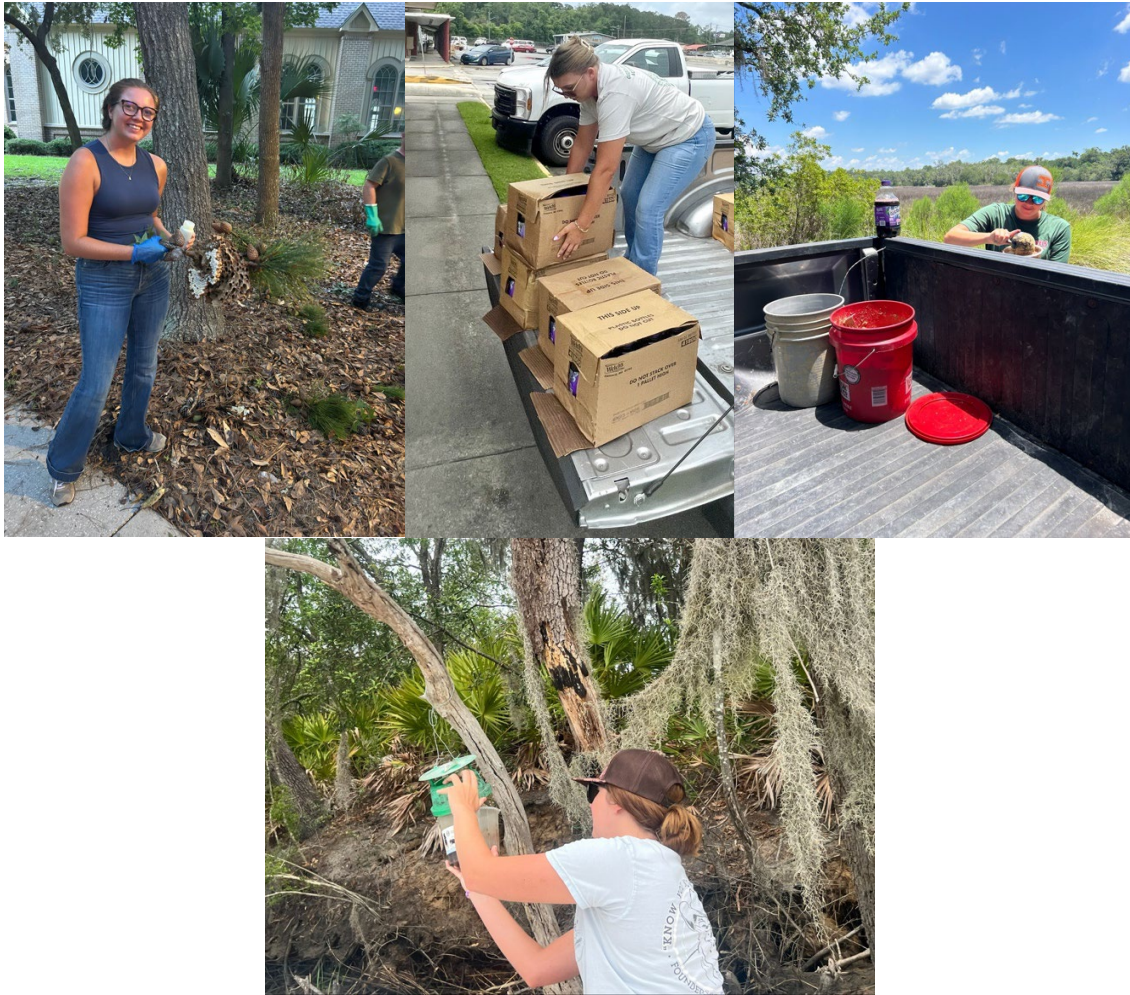
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The first confirmed secondary nest of 2026 was located and eradicated by the PPD team on Skidaway Island on July 6, 2026. (Photo by GDA)

As our summer internship program comes to a close at the end of the month, we'd like to extend a sincere thank you to our Plant Protection Division interns for their hard work and dedication. Their enthusiasm and support have made a meaningful impact on our team's efforts this summer, and we wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

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PPD's 2026 summer interns Jade Biggers and Natalie Burney. (Photos by GDA)

Update by the Numbers:

New Traps Deployed (Since January 2026): 1,115

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – July 14, 2026): 3,226

Hornets found (June 23, 2026 – July 14, 2026): 160

Nests found & eradicated (June 23, 2026 – July 14, 2026): 10

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – July 14, 2026): 164

- 2026: 1 (2025 secondary nest) | 33 embryo nests found | 8 primary nest | 7 secondary nest
- 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

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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>