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## YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

In the past week, the Plant Protection team has tracked & eradicated five yellow-legged hornet nests in the Savannah area.



(Pictured: Several nests found in the Savannah area over the past few days, located in the trees.)

Issue 17: September 27, 2024 – October 10, 2024

This time last year, the team was still becoming familiar with tracking these pests. Over the past year, they have gained valuable experience, particularly in utilizing trapping data effectively, which we believe has significantly contributed to their success in locating nests this late in the yellow-legged hornet season. Furthermore, we have nearly 1,200 traps deployed in Savannah and its surrounding areas, enhancing our chances of detecting these hornets even further.

As always, we encourage all Georgians to report any hornet sightings or suspected nests by emailing us at [yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov) or using our online reporting [form](#). Your vigilance is essential in helping us manage this situation effectively.



The PPD team has been at the Georgia National Fair since October 3rd, where they are answering questions about yellow-legged hornets in the Georgia Grown building. They will be there until Sunday, October 13th. If you're in Perry, come by and visit!





(Pictured: Chris Adams and Hemp Ammons from the Plant Protection Division with their display at the Georgia National Fair.)

## UPDATE BY THE NUMBERS

New Traps Deployed: 0

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – October 10, 2024): 1,169

Hornets found (September 27 – October 10, 2024): 239

Nests found & eradicated (September 27 – October 10, 2024): 6

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – October 10, 2024):

- January 2024 – October 10, 2024: 4 embryo nests, 3 primary nests, 29 secondary nests
  - Total: 36
- August 2023 - December 2023: 5 secondary nests

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### Terms to Know:

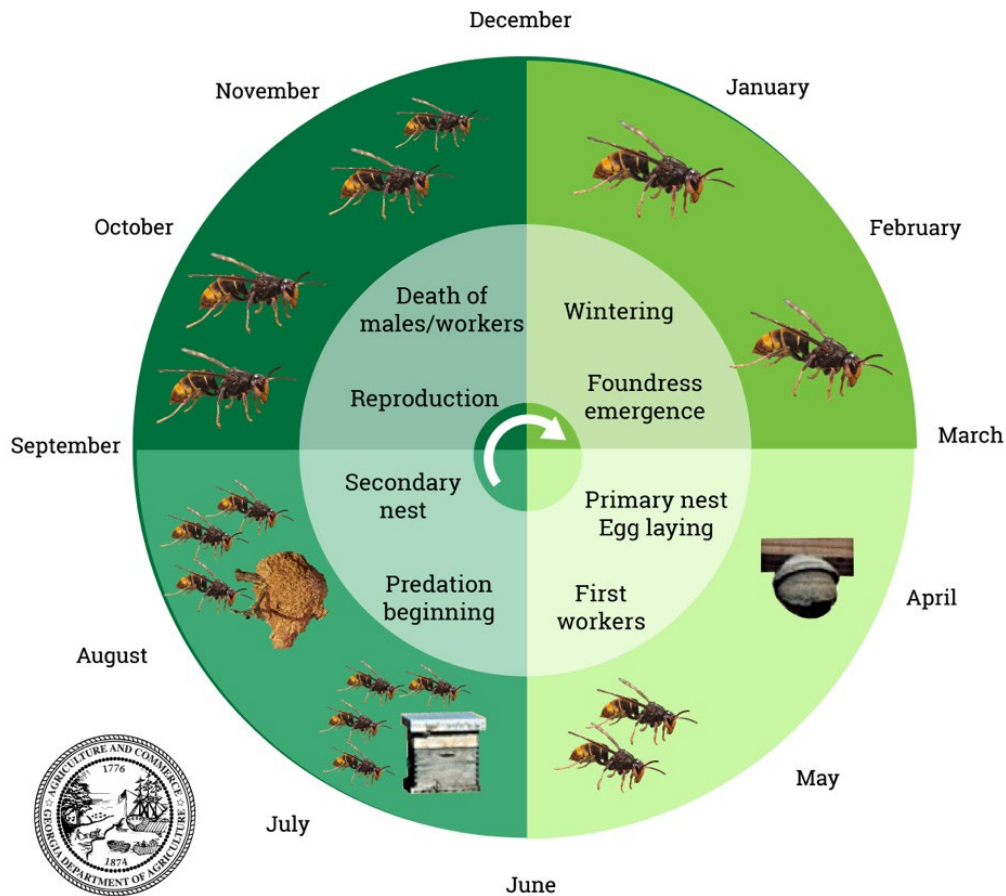
- **Embryo Nests** are built by queens so that they can begin forming a colony and often are the size of a tennis ball. Embryo nests are usually found in early spring.
- **Primary Nests** are nests built by worker hornets once they emerge from embryo nests. They can be the size of a grapefruit. Primary 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.

### How to Report Sightings and Nests:

If you come across a yellow-legged hornet nest, please take a photo and report it using the online [YLH reporting form](#) or by emailing [yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov). It's crucial to ensure that the queen is eliminated if you remove a nest to prevent her from establishing another nest elsewhere. If you're unsure about removing a nest, please contact the GDA for assistance.

### 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*.

**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>.**