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YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

This week, our team successfully located and eliminated a hornet nest we had been monitoring. Situated on a pine tree limb in the Savannah area, as shown in the picture below, the nest was a significant find in our ongoing efforts.



(Pictured: PPD Supervisor Chris Adams stands beside a limb that was removed from the tree, where a nest was discovered and successfully eliminated on November 20, 2024.)

Last week, we hosted Kate Fairbanks and James Snyder from the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Bureau of Methods Development and Biological Control. During their visit, we had the opportunity to share our trapping strategy and collaborate on nest location efforts. Together, we combined our electronic tagging techniques with the Florida team's newly acquired harmonic radar technology, which they recently explored during a trip to Hawaii.



(Pictured: Kate Fairbanks from the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and PPD’s Chris Adams demonstrate harmonic radar technology to the Georgia PPD team.)

Our work is far from finished. As long as worker hornets are active, our search for additional nests will continue. The team is committed to closely monitoring any remaining activity and diligently searching for nests. Beekeepers who observe hawking behavior are encouraged to report their findings to us at yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov.

UPDATE BY THE NUMBERS

New Traps Deployed: 11

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – November 20, 2024): 1,199

Hornets found (November 8 – November 20, 2024): 294

Nests found & eradicated (November 8 – November 20, 2024): 2

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – November 20, 2024): 51

- January 2024 – November 20, 2024: 4 embryo nests, 3 primary nests, 39 secondary nests
 - Total: 46
- 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](#).

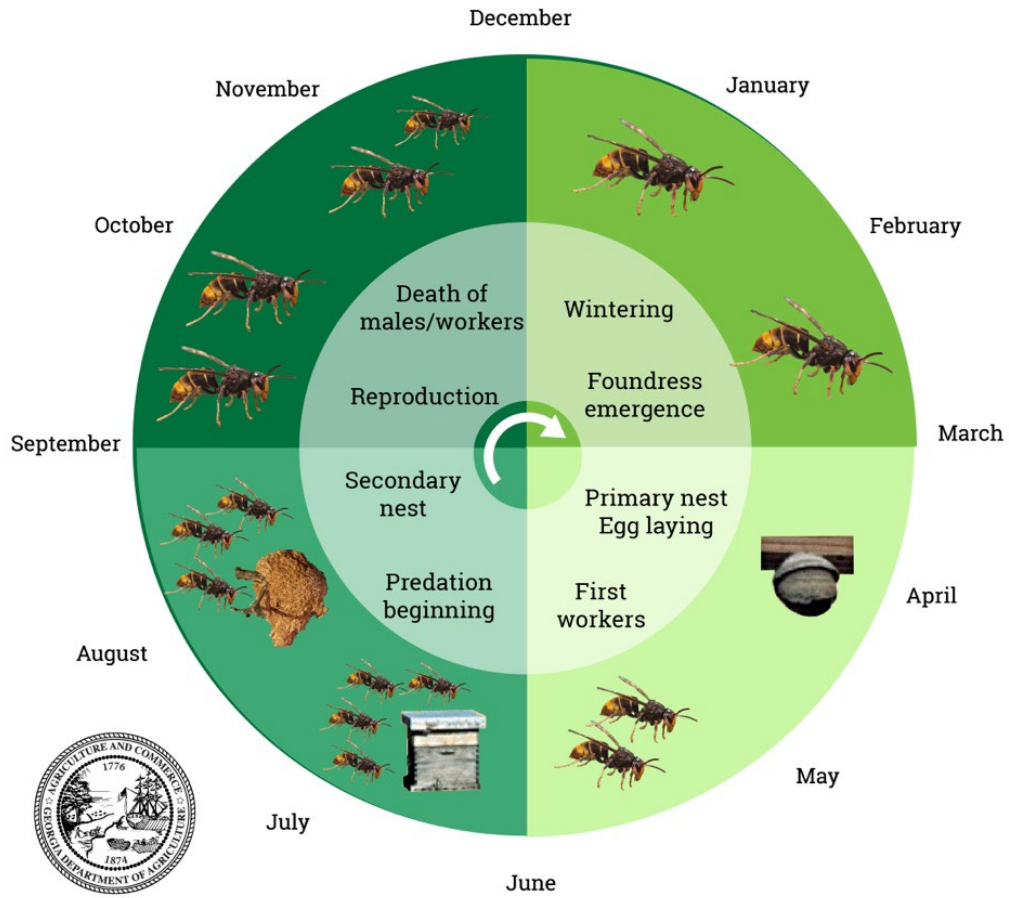


Terms to Know:

- **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*.

Join the Georgia Hornet Watch Facebook Group:



GEORGIA HORNET WATCH

Join the GDA's dedicated yellow-legged hornet Facebook group to get the latest information!



facebook.com/groups/georgiahornetgroup

(Click [here](#) 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>.