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YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

Issue 9: June 7, 2024 – June 21, 2024

Update by the Numbers:

New traps deployed: 349

Total traps deployed (August 2023 – June 2024): 989

Hornets found (January 2024 – June 2024): 22 queens | 41 workers

Hornets found (June 13, 2024 – June 20, 2024): 0 queens | 34 workers

Nests found & eradicated (June 13, 2024 – June 20, 2024): 1

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – June 2024):

- August 2023 – December 2023
 - Secondary nests: 5
- January 2024 – June 2024
 - Embryo nests: 4
 - Primary nests: 2
 - Secondary nests: 0

Updates:

Updates on Yellow-Legged Hornet Eradication Efforts

On Wednesday, June 19, 2024, our team in Savannah was notified of a possible YLH nest at a building in the Savannah area. With the help of Yates-Astro Pest Control, our team successfully eradicated the primary nest.



Pictured: (Left) First primary nest was found and eradicated in early June 2024. (Right) The 2nd primary nest was found and eradicated on June 19, 2024.

Updates from the Plant Protection Team

- Our PPD team has begun trapping efforts up and down the Georgia coast and intend to push further south towards the border with Florida in an effort to cover as much area as possible.
- Our goal for 2024 was to deploy at least 1,000 traps and we've now nearly reached that goal – placing 989.
- Thus far, our team on the ground has observed that the early-season hornets are noticeably smaller than the late-season hornets that were captured in 2023.

Job Alert: Yellow-Legged Hornet Trappers Needed

Our team in Savannah recently hired an apiary inspector. Additionally, in July, three new part-time employees will join them in Savannah.

The Plant Protection Division is still searching for an additional part-time YLH hornet trapper to join them. These seasonal positions will help support our eradication efforts with a salary between \$15 - \$17 per hour. If you reside in Chatham, Bryan, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, or McIntosh Counties and are interested, please apply [here](#).

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. 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.

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 softball. 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.

Georgia Hornet Watch: Join our Facebook [group](#) dedicated to the yellow-legged hornet in Georgia. Share insights, stay updated on YLH developments, and collaborate on efforts to eradicate this invasive species!

DIY Trap Video Guide: Check out our step-by-step [video](#) guide to help Georgians create effective yellow-legged hornet traps using common household materials.



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>.

