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## YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

Since the last Yellow-legged Ledger, the Plant Protection Division team has been tracking, trapping, and eradicating yellow-legged hornets in the Savannah area. Over the past few weeks, they have successfully tracked and eradicated three suspected secondary nests, all discovered high in trees on August 15, 21, and 26, 2024.



(Pictured: The PPD team with nests discovered between August 15 and August 26 in the Savannah area.)

Throughout the season, the PPD team has been working closely with partners in South Carolina in addition to their efforts in Georgia. In August, this collaboration proved invaluable as the team used data from South Carolina to help them locate three yellow-legged hornet nests in Beaufort County, South Carolina. This partnership is crucial for preventing the further spread of yellow-legged hornets.



(Pictured: Members of the PPD team—David Williams, Briton Gill, and Cade Houston—shared some good-natured banter with Clemson University colleagues while assisting in the search for yellow-legged hornets in Beaufort County, South Carolina, just across the river from Savannah. Here, they stand next to a UGA “Go Dawg’s”-marked tree where a nest was discovered.)

As part of our outreach initiatives, the PPD team frequently shares their findings on the yellow-legged hornet at various events. On August 26, 2024, Cade Houston and Hamp Ammons from the PPD team delivered a presentation at the Nassau County Beekeepers Association in Callahan, FL. Their talk covered the team's efforts in trapping, tracking, and eradicating this invasive species. They also shared valuable insights into the hornet's behavior and offered guidance on how community members can contribute to limiting its spread and safeguarding Georgia's agriculture.

Issue 14: August 17, 2024 – August 29, 2024



(Pictured: Cade Houston explaining the lifecycle of the yellow-legged hornet during his presentation to the Nassau County Beekeepers Association.)

On August 23, 2024, Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper visited the Savannah area to observe the team's fieldwork firsthand. Commissioner Harper saw firsthand the vital work being done to eradicate the yellow-legged hornet and protect Georgia's top industry.





(Pictured: Commissioner Tyler Harper is pictured with several members of the PPD team during his visit to Savannah, where he observed their progress in tracking, trapping, and eradicating yellow-legged hornets from Georgia.)

In July, the PPD team received well-deserved recognition from the National Plant Board for their exceptional efforts to eradicate the yellow-legged hornet. At the Board's annual meeting in Grand Rapids, MI, the team was honored with the Outstanding Team Performance Award. This accolade celebrated their extraordinary work in trapping, tracking, and eradicating the invasive yellow-legged hornet from Georgia.

## UPDATE BY THE NUMBERS

New Traps Deployed: 34

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – August 29, 2024): 1,109

Hornets found (August 17 - August 29, 2024): 213

Nests found & eradicated (August 16 – August 29, 2024):

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – August 29, 2024): **25**

- January 2024 – August 16, 2024: 4 embryo nests, 3 primary nests, 13 secondary nests

- August 2023 - December 2023: 5 secondary nests

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### Terms to Know:

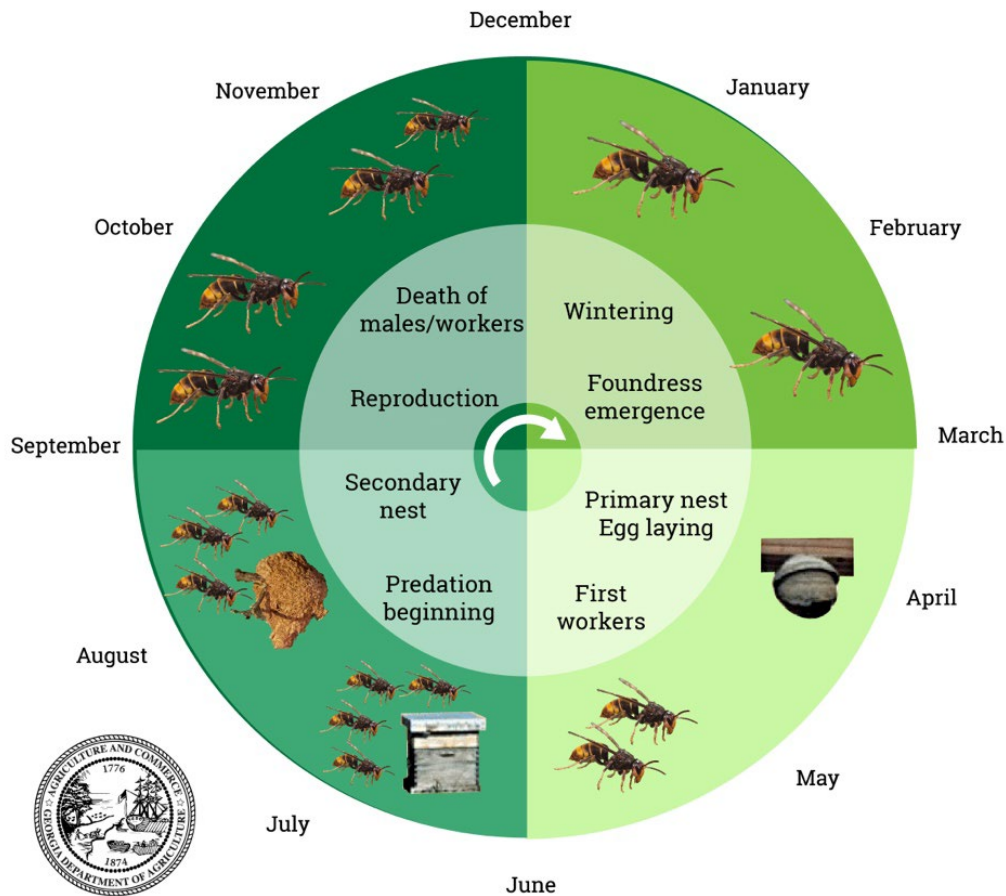
- **Embryo Nests** are built by queens so that they can begin forming a colony and often are the size of a tennis ball. Embryo nests are usually found in early spring.
- **Primary Nests** are nests built by worker hornets once they emerge from embryo nests. They can be the size of a grapefruit. Primary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

## YLH IN THE NEWS

August 16, 2024 - [Five Yellow-legged Hornet Nests Found in the Savannah Area](#)

August 17, 2024 - [More Yellow-legged Hornets Found in Georgia, South Carolina](#)

August 16, 2024 - [WTOC TV Segment](#)

**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>.**