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## YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

In this issue of the Yellow-legged Ledger, we bring you the latest updates on our ongoing efforts to combat the invasive yellow-legged hornet. Since our last publication, the Georgia Department of Agriculture's (GDA) Plant Protection Division team has discovered four new nests in the Savannah area. We continue to urge 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](#).

In some exciting news, with support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), we have acquired a 21-foot Carolina Skiff to enhance our tracking, trapping, and eradicating capabilities. The boat has proven invaluable for navigating and deploying traps in the tidal marshes and wetlands surrounding Savannah.



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(Over the last few weeks, the PPD team has been using this boat to deploy traps on the areas surrounded by water around Savannah.)

Be sure to catch parts 1 and 2 of the Market Bulletin series highlighting the GDA's strategies and dedicated efforts in eradicating yellow-legged hornet from Georgia, setting the stage for the upcoming insights in Part 3, which will be released in early October.

## UPDATE BY THE NUMBERS

New Traps Deployed: 34

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – September 12, 2024): 1,143

Hornets found (August 30 – September 12, 2024): 170

Nests found & eradicated (August 30 – September 12, 2024):

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – September 12, 2024): **31**

- January 2024 – August 16, 2024: 4 embryo nests, 3 primary nests, 19 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:

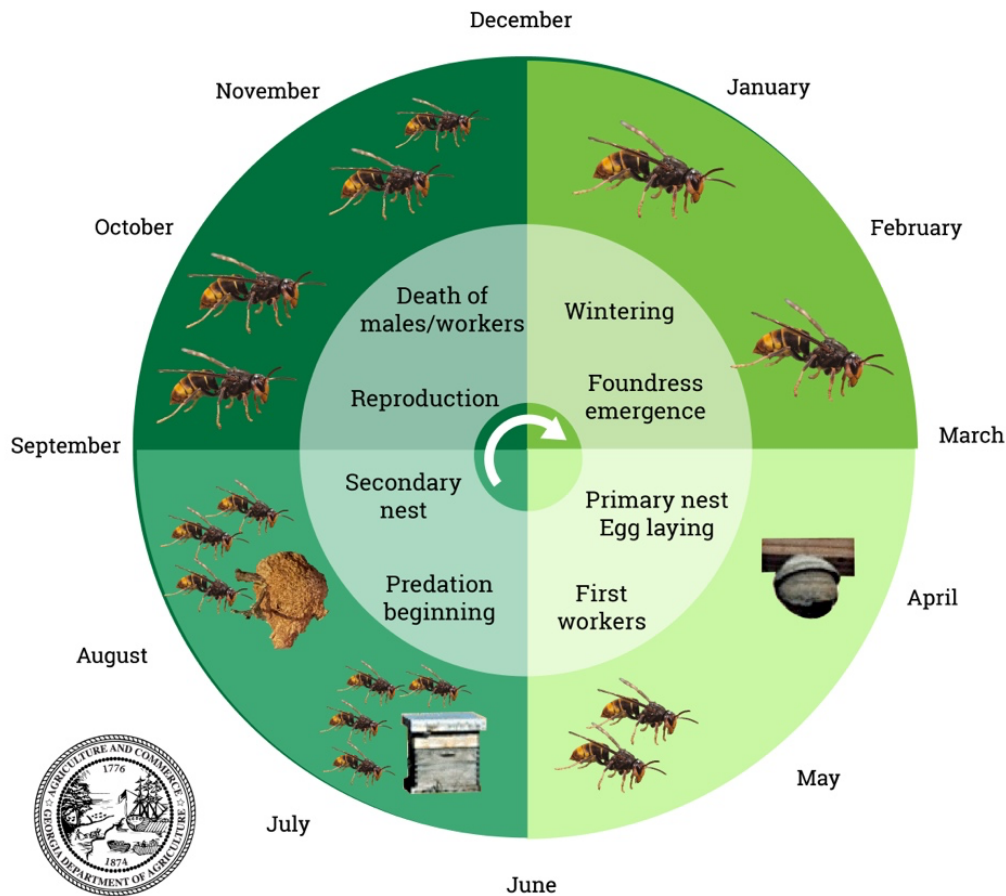
If you come across a yellow-legged hornet nest, please take a photo and report it using the online [YLH reporting form](#) or by emailing

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[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 30, 2024 - [National Plant Board Recognizes Georgia Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection Division with Outstanding Team Performance](#)

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Award

August 30, 2024 - [3 Suspected Secondary Yellow-legged Hornet Nests Eradicated in the Savannah Area](#)

September 2, 2024 - [National Plant Board Recognizes GDA's Plant Protection Division](#)

**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>.**