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YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

As we approach November, the Plant Protection Division team continues to monitor yellow-legged hornet activity in the Savannah area. Where there is hornet activity, it often indicates that a nest has been established, and our goal remains to eradicate each nest before the queens are released for the next season. This year, our team has eradicated 40 yellow-legged hornet nests, and while that number may seem large, it's worth noting that there are areas in Savannah where we haven't encountered any hornets.

We urge all Savannahians to stay vigilant. If you spot a nest resembling the ones shown below, please contact us at yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov. Keep in mind that these nests are often located 50 to 100 feet above the ground. Your awareness and prompt reporting are helping us protect our agricultural industry from these invasive pests.

Since the last issue of the Yellow-legged Ledger, the PPD team has successfully eradicated four yellow-legged hornet nests. These nests were all located in Savannah area trees that were located both in residential neighborhoods and marshlands.



(Pictured: A yellow-legged hornet nest discovered and successfully eradicated on October 15, 2024, in the Savannah area.)

UPDATE BY THE NUMBERS

New Traps Deployed: 2

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – October 24, 2024): 1,171

Hornets found (October 11 – October 24, 2024): 197

Nests found & eradicated (October 11 – October 24, 2024): 4

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – October 24, 2024): 45

- January 2024 – October 24, 2024: 4 embryo nests, 3 primary nests, 33 secondary nests
 - Total: 40
- August 2023 - December 2023: 5 secondary nests

HELPFUL RESOURCES

How to Report Sightings and Nests:

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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](#).

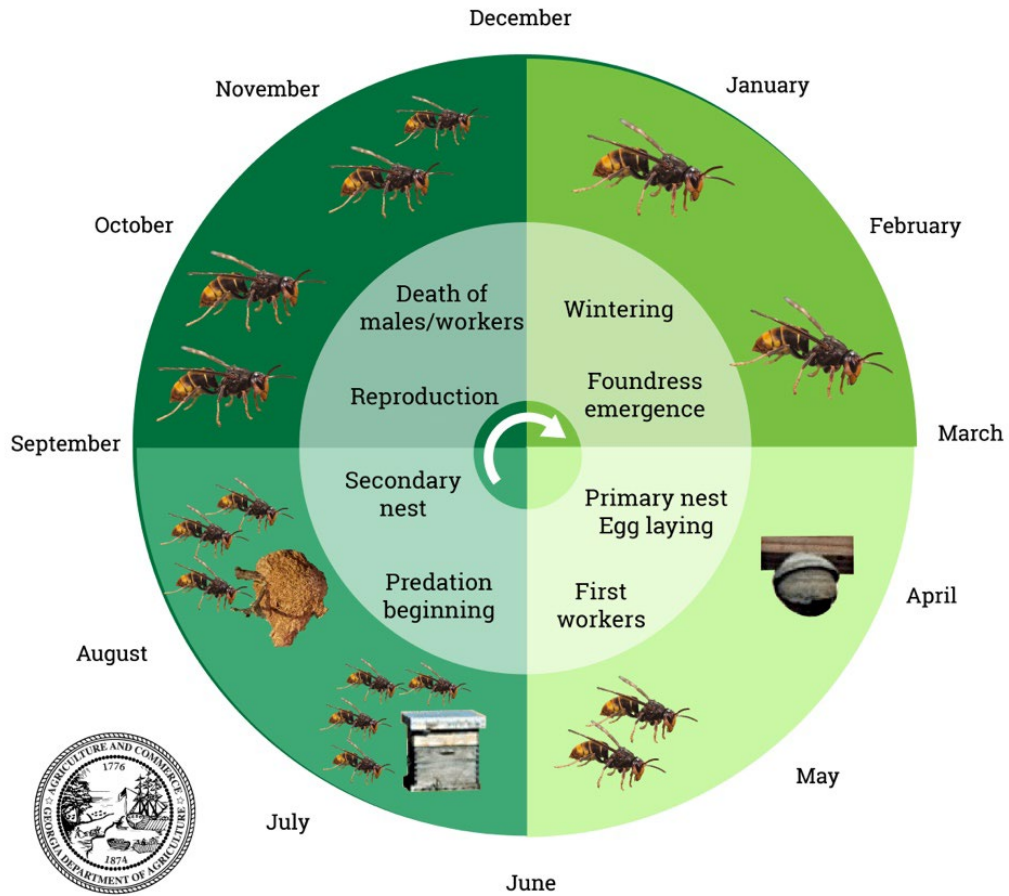


Terms to Know:

- **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:

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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>.