Issue 53: October 8, 2026 – October 22, 2026

VISIT OUR WEBSITE • AGR.GEORGIA.GOV/YELLOW-LEGGED-HORNET

YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

Yellow-Legged Hornet (YLH) Update:

We are currently seeing reproductive Yellow-legged Hornets (YLH), making continued efforts to locate and eliminate nests especially important. Our Plant Protection team will continue searching for nests to eliminate as many reproductives as possible and help limit the spread of this invasive pest.

In other news, personnel from Clemson University's Department of Plant Industry recently identified a YLH nest in Anderson County, South Carolina. North Georgia beekeepers should remain vigilant, as hornets may move across state lines. Early detection is critical—the sooner potential nests or suspicious hornet activity are reported, the sooner we can investigate and take action.

Beekeepers - Your vigilance can make a difference! You know your hives better than anyone. Recognizing unusual activity around them can play a critical role in detecting Yellow-legged Hornets early.

We encourage all beekeepers to monitor their hives for YLH hawking activity—when hornets hover near hive entrances and prey on honeybees as they enter and leave the hive.

Based on our Plant Protection teams' experience, hawking activity may occur throughout the day but is most commonly observed before noon and after 5:00 p.m. We recommend observing your hives for approximately 30 minutes at a time during these periods to increase the likelihood of detecting suspicious activity.

To help you identify this behavior, we encourage you to watch the short videos prepared by our Plant Protection team demonstrating what hawking looks like.

- https://youtube.com/shorts/PrsN59kSpu0?feature=share
- https://youtu.be/5Wk49ZYkkes

Remember, if you suspect you have spotted a Yellow-Legged Hornet or found a nest, please report the sighting immediately to the Georgia Department of Agriculture at yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov or through the GDA's online reporting page.

Update by the Numbers:

As a reminder, you can view our eradication map, here.

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New Traps Deployed (Since January 2026): 1,389
Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – October 22, 2026): 3,500
Hornets found (October 8, 2026 – October 22, 2026): 812
Nests found & eradicated (October 8, 2026 - October 22, 2026): 18 found, not all have been eradicated at this point
Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – October 22, 2026): 259

- 2026: 33 embryo nests found | 19 primary nest | 92 secondary nest
- 2025: 4 embryo nests | 5 primary nests | 54 secondary nests
- 2024: 4 embryo nests | 3 primary nests | 40 secondary nests
- 2023: 5 secondary nests

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