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YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

This issue marks the 50th edition of the Yellow-Legged Ledger, which was first published on November 7, 2023, to keep Georgians informed about the state's ongoing Yellow-Legged Hornet response.

Update by the Numbers:

New Traps Deployed (Since January 2026): 1,283

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – August 31, 2026): 3,394

Hornets found (August 13, 2026 – August 31, 2026): 667

Nests found & eradicated (August 13, 2026 - August 31, 2026): 11

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – August 31, 2026): 200

- 2026: 33 embryo nests | 15 primary nests | 37 secondary nests
- 2025: 4 embryo nests | 5 primary nests | 54 secondary nests
- 2024: 4 embryo nests | 3 primary nests | 40 secondary nests

This August, the Plant Protection team has been busy, having found **1,090 hornets and 60 nests**, deployed **48 new traps**, and checked **7,944 traps** across the state. The team also welcomed researchers from the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, and the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services to observe nest locations and eradication efforts firsthand.



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PPD showing Dr. Jamie Ellis (UGA) several YLH nests in Savannah. (Photo by GDA)



Dr. Luke Tembrock (USDA) pulls a DNA sample from a Yellow-Legged Hornet. (Photo by GDA)



Chris Adams (PPD) assists Dr. Alan Smith-Pardo (USDA) with his bee suit as Dr. Smith-Pardo prepares to climb a tree for a closer look at a Yellow-Legged Hornet nest. (Photo by GDA)

With temperatures still high, Yellow-Legged Hornet activity continues, so Georgians are encouraged to remain vigilant and watch for nests and “hawking” behavior around beehives. If you believe you’ve spotted a Yellow-Legged Hornet nest in Georgia, help protect our honeybees by reporting it to yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov.

Important reminders:

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- Monitoring beehives should be ongoing throughout the entire year.
- While hawking can happen at any time, it tends to peak before noon and again after 5 PM.

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>