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YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

Update by the Numbers:

New Traps Deployed (since January 1, 2025): 854

Total traps deployed (December 4, 2025 – December 17, 2025): 0

Hornets found (December 4, 2025 – December 17, 2025): 204

Nests found & eradicated (December 4, 2025 – December 17, 2025): 0

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – December 17, 2025): 62

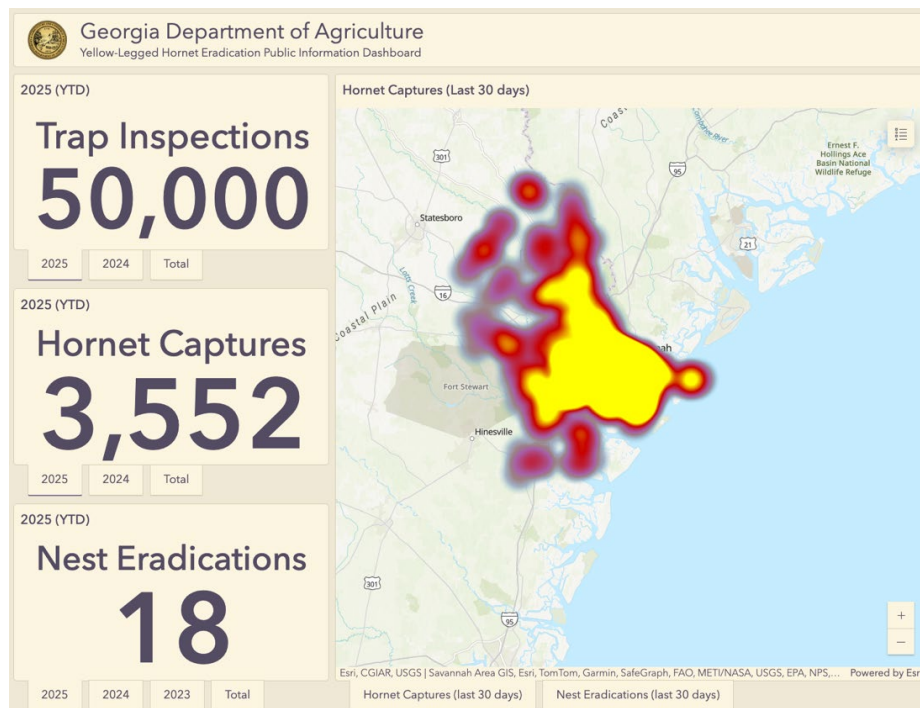
- 2025: 4 embryo nests, 5 primary nests, 53 secondary nests

- 2024: 4 embryo nests, 3 primary nests, 41 secondary nests

- Total: 48

- 2023: 5 secondary nests

Stay informed with the interactive [Yellow-legged Hornet Eradication Map](#)—updated with the latest data.



A Call to Action for Georgia Beekeepers

In early December, Commissioner Tyler J. Harper reached out to the Georgia Beekeepers Association and the Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association, asking beekeepers statewide to remain vigilant for signs of hawking behavior at their hives. Protecting Georgia's bees depends on the eyes and experience of our beekeeping community, and we are grateful for their continued partnership in monitoring and safeguarding hive health across the state.



STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Tyler J Harper
COMMISSIONER

December 3rd, 2025

Georgia Beekeepers Association
c/o President Julie Mahood

Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association
c/o President Greg Stewart

President Mahood & President Stewart,

First, I want to thank you for your collaboration and support of the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection Division as they work to eradicate the Yellow-legged hornet from Georgia. Beekeeper support is absolutely essential to the success of our efforts.

Some of you may have heard the Yellow-Legged Hornet (YLH) has recently been detected in a new area of South Carolina, likely having hitchhiked from the coast to the York, SC area. Although this detection is not close to Georgia, it is an important reminder to stay vigilant.

Your role as beekeepers is vital. You remain a key line of defense in protecting our pollinators, and your awareness and quick action make a big impact.

We are asking all Georgia beekeepers to support the Department's rapid response efforts by:

1. Setting monitoring traps near your hives.



Scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/YLHTrappingGuide> for instructions to build a homemade trap.

2. Watching for hawking behavior—hornets hovering near hive entrances and capturing foraging bees.

3. Reporting any suspicious sightings immediately to the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection Division at yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov.

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Thank you for your continued work on behalf of Georgia's beekeeping community. Your efforts will directly protect honeybee colonies and support Georgia's #1 industry—agriculture.

If we can assist you in any way, please reach out.

God Bless & Keep Plowin',

Tyler J Harper
Commissioner of Agriculture

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Looking Ahead: Yellow-legged Hornet Response

As temperatures drop and fewer hornets and affected hives are identified, the PPD team will begin scaling back efforts and shift focus toward planning for 2026.

Team members will remain active, and we encourage Georgians to stay alert. If you observe anything concerning (like what's pictured below), please contact the team immediately at yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov.



We look forward to returning with a new issue of the Yellow-legged Ledger in early spring. For now, we wish our readers a very Merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year!

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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>.