



What to do if you find a yellow-legged hornet

Reports from the public are the cornerstone of work to eradicate yellow-legged hornet (YLH). If you suspect you have found a YLH, you can report it by:

- Using the Asian Hornet Watch app for [iPhone](#) or app for [android](#)
- Filling in the [online recording form](#)
- Emailing alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Between July and September please do not attempt to kill individual hornets.

A live hornet is essential to help our teams locate and destroy the nest. Finding and removing the nest is the most effective way to protect honey bees and other pollinators. Dead hornets cannot be tracked.

Where it is safe and practical to do so, in the period following a positive sighting you may be asked to assist with monitoring by replacing monitoring traps with a simple bait station. Although this may feel counter-intuitive, YLHs often return repeatedly to a reliable food source, so trying to establish this behaviour pattern by feeding rather than trapping allows direction and timing information to be acquired, assisting trained personnel to track their flight path and identify the location of the nest.

Safety advice

- If hornets appear aggressive or you feel unsafe, move away immediately.
- Do not attempt to follow hornets through difficult terrain, onto private property or into unsafe areas.
- Do not disturb vegetation, structures or potential nest sites.
- Never attempt to remove or destroy a nest yourself; report any suspect nests via the Asian Hornet Watch app.

By reporting sightings promptly and allowing trained responders to track hornets back to their nest, you can play an important role in helping to protect the UK's pollinators & wider ecology.

FAQ:

Why shouldn't I kill the hornet?

A live YLH can help responders locate the nest. Destroying the nest removes many more hornets than killing individual insects and is the most effective way to reduce the risk to honey bees and other pollinators. Nest destruction also prevents release of new hornet queens, who can start new nests, killing workers does not.

Why shouldn't I use a pest controller to destroy a suspect yellow-legged hornet nest?

Please report suspect nests through the Asian Hornet Watch app so the National Bee Unit knows where hornets are being seen and can arrange any necessary follow-up. The National Bee Unit does not charge for confirmed nest destruction. Privately destroying a nest without reporting it risks losing important location information and risks a less-coordinated national response.

Is the 'yellow-legged hornet' the same insect as the 'Asian hornet'?

Yes, both names refer to the species *Vespa velutina nigrithorax*. The current name of yellow-legged hornet was adopted to help people identify the hornet and to differentiate this insect from other species of hornet from Asia.

How can I help?

More information about how Yellow legged Asian hornet teams can help can be found here: [The role of Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Teams » APHA - National Bee Unit - BeeBase](#)