

Yellow-legged hornet (aka Asian hornet) nests

Many wasps and hornets, including yellow-legged hornet, produce two types of nest: **primary nests** and **secondary nests**. All wasp and hornet nests look similar. To identify a nest, watch for insects from a safe distance.

Yellow-legged hornet,
Vespa velutina



Yellow-legged hornet primary nests:

- Spherical with a small entrance hole at the base, usually 5 to 10 cm in diameter.
- Built in spring by a lone yellow-legged hornet queen, usually in a protected place such as brambles, a hedgerow, or in / on a building. **Only report primary nests if seen with yellow-legged hornets**

Yellow-legged hornet secondary nests:

- Pear-shaped, entrance hole halfway up the nest, up to 60 cm wide x 80 cm tall.
- Usually found in trees, may also be in buildings and hedges.
- **Use binoculars to identify secondary nests from a safe distance. Do not disturb suspected nests and retreat from any wasp / hornet nests if flying insects are observed.**

Secondary nests in a tree canopy in summer (left)



Primary nest. All primary wasp and hornet nests look similar. **Only report if seen with yellow-legged hornet.**



Secondary nest in a hedge



Secondary nest in a building



Reporting yellow-legged hornet (aka Asian hornet) nests and sightings

For assistance with identifying and reporting a suspected nest, or to help identify nests, please contact your local Asian Hornet Team (AHT).

Report sightings of yellow-legged hornet:

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Find an
AHT:



Report a yellow
-legged hornet:



Nests of similar species

Secondary yellow-legged hornet (aka Asian hornet) nests may be confused with other wasp and hornet nests, or objects in trees. If you suspect you have seen a yellow-legged hornet nest, please use binoculars to check from a safe distance before reporting. See overleaf for details of where to report nests and find help with identification.

Yellow-legged hornet, *Vespa velutina*

Secondary nest:

- Usually found in trees, may also be in buildings and hedges.
- Pear-shaped.
- Entrance hole halfway up the nest.
- Up to 60 cm wide x 80 cm tall.



Other objects in trees

- Crow and magpie nests.
- Mistletoe.
- Squirrel dreys.

Bird nest in a tree:



Median wasp, *Dolichovespula media*



Secondary nest:

- Usually in bushes that are less than 2 m tall.
- Conical.
- Small opening at lower end, off centre.
- Usually 20 x 25 cm.
- Nest of a *Dolichovespula* species shown below



Primary nest:

Characteristic tube-shaped entrance (unlike primary Asian hornet nest).



European hornet, *Vespa crabro*

Secondary nest:

- Usually in hollow trees, chimneys, rarely in the open air.
- Cylindrical.
- Wide opening at the bottom.
- Usually 30 x 60 cm.



Common wasp, *Vespula vulgaris*



Secondary nest:

- Usually on the ground, or in confined spaces in buildings.
- Round to conical.
- Small hidden opening at the lower end.
- Usually 30 x 35 cm.

