Yellow-legged

Vespa velutina

hornet,



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 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







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:

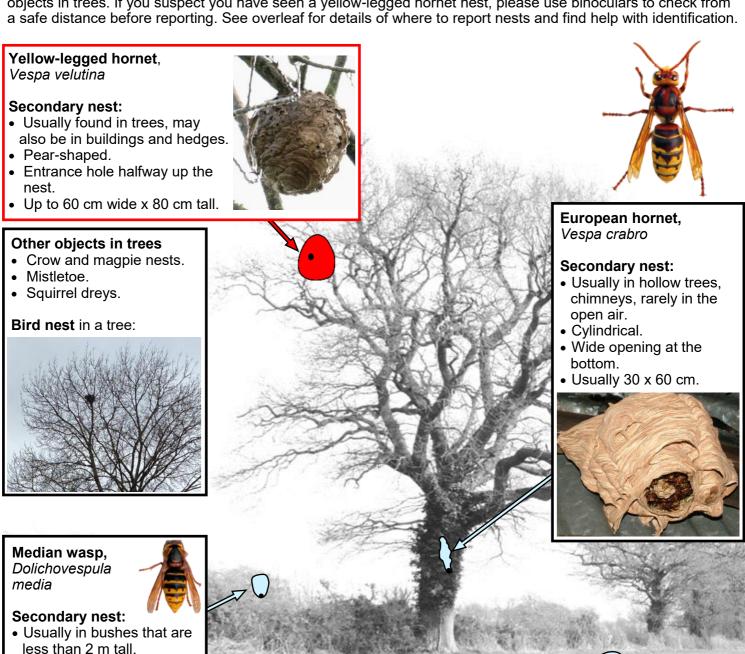


Report a yellow -legged hornet:



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



- 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).



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.



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