



Look out for hornets

There have been recent detections of yellow-legged hornets (*Vespa velutina*) in Auckland. There may be other hornets and nests still out there in your community. We need your help to find them.

Why this is a concern

The yellow-legged hornet is a biosecurity concern due to its potential impact on honeybee and wild bee populations. The species also has a painful sting.

How to report a suspected finding

» Online: report.mpi.govt.nz

» Phone: 0800 80 99 66

Report only if you have:

- » a specimen or clear photo of a suspected hornet
- » found a possible hornet nest

How to identify the hornet and its nest(s)

- » The yellow-legged hornet has distinctive dark legs with bright yellow tips. In contrast, common wasp species in New Zealand, such as the German wasp (*Vespula germanica*), typically have uniformly yellow or yellow-striped legs.



- » The yellow-legged hornet is also much larger than honeybees and common wasp species seen in New Zealand.
- » Early embryonic nests created by queen hornets at the beginning of the spring season can be as small as a tennis ball and may appear within a couple of days.
- » Later in the summer, hornets build large nests (up to 80cm tall), often high in trees or under eaves.

Hornets are larger than common wasps

Please do not disturb any suspected nest



1. Yellow-legged hornet
2. German wasp
3. Asian paper wasp
4. Australian paper wasp

Find out more at mpi.govt.nz/yellow-legged-hornet-2025