



## Biosecurity New Zealand

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua

# Keep watch for hornets over winter

We've made great progress finding and destroying yellow-legged hornets on Auckland's North Shore.

These hornets kill honeybees and have a nasty sting. We don't want them here.

With huge support from the local community, we've found and removed 77 queens and 132 nests from Auckland's North Shore, and we've not seen any hornets since the beginning of April. Thank you.

If any hornets have survived our operation, they're likely to be queens, hidden hibernating for the winter under bark, leaf piles and in woodpiles. If they survive winter, they will emerge in spring to start new nests. We still need people to keep an eye out and report any suspected hornets.

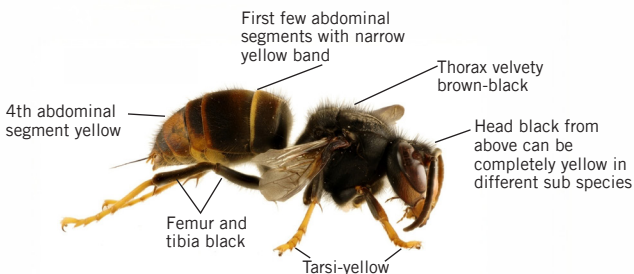


Image not to scale

Think you've seen a hornet or a nest? Report it to  
**Biosecurity New Zealand**  
**report.mpi.govt.nz | 0800 80 99 66**

**New Zealand Government**  
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

## Identifying yellow-legged hornets and nests

- » Much larger than honeybees and wasps seen in New Zealand
- » Has dark legs with bright yellow tips
- » Early-stage nests can be as small as a tennis ball – secondary nests are brown, layered and more commonly basketball-sized or larger.



Primary nest



Secondary nest

## Caution over winter

Take care when gardening or shifting firewood. Hibernating queens could be hidden under leaf litter and bark or in woodpiles. If disturbed, they can sting.

If you're moving equipment normally stored outdoors – e.g. caravans, boats, trailers, firewood – check before you go in case there's a queen hidden on board. Don't risk moving them to other areas.

## Report a suspected find to:

- » [report.mpi.govt.nz](https://report.mpi.govt.nz)
- » 0800 80 99 66

Full information at  
[mpi.govt.nz/yellow-legged-hornet-2025](https://mpi.govt.nz/yellow-legged-hornet-2025)