



# 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](https://report.mpi.govt.nz)

» Phone: 0800 80 99 66

Report only if you have:

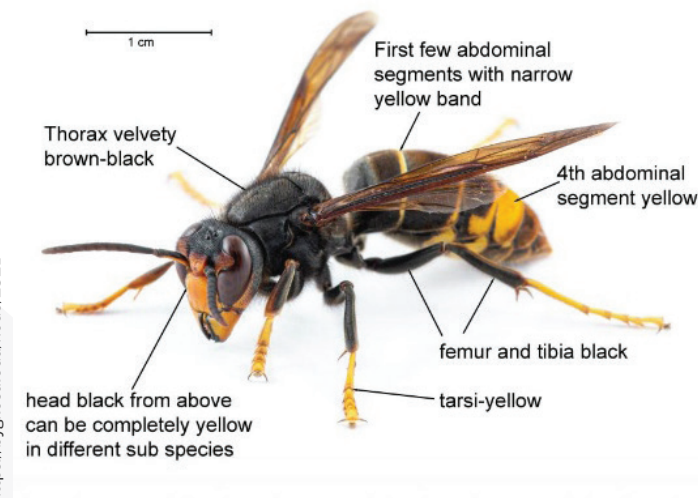
- » a specimen or clear photo of a suspected hornet
- » found a possible hornet nest

## 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.



A queen yellow-legged hornet develops an embryonic or primary nest (pictured). Worker hornets raised in the primary nest build a larger, secondary nest during the summer.

## 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](https://mpi.govt.nz/yellow-legged-hornet-2025)**