

How to build a homemade hornet trap

If you'd like to support the work to find and remove yellow-legged hornets, you can make a very simple trap using these instructions.

1. Cut the top third off a plastic soda bottle (ideally a 1.5 litre bottle but any size will work).



2. Turn the top cut part upside down and put it neck downwards into the bottom part of the bottle to create a funnel.



3. Attach a length of string to your trap by punching some holes through the side so you can hang it up.



4. Fill your trap with this suggested bait formula: 400 g of sugar, 10 g of yeast, and 1 litre of water. You can also add 100 ml of beer to this mixture. You'll have enough to fill several traps.

5. Add the bait to the bottle making sure to leave about 5cm above the liquid for hornets to enter the bottle and be trapped.



6. Hang your trap from trees or other structures in your garden, ideally well away from your house. It is helpful to hang it under shelter to prevent rain entering the trap.



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

Hornets are larger than common wasps



Report it

If you believe you have caught a hornet in your trap, take a clear photograph and report it online at report.mpi.govt.nz or by calling 0800 80 99 66.

Do not attempt to remove a live hornet or wasp from your trap.

Be aware you are likely to catch other insects in the trap, including wasps. Here is a comparison between the yellow-legged hornet and common wasps.

Full information about the yellow-legged hornet is at mpi.govt.nz/yellow-legged-hornet-2025