



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PEST ALERT

YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET

Scientific name: Vespa velutina

Yellow-legged hornet was intercepted at the Port of Vancouver on April 30, 2026. This highly invasive hornet has rapidly spread through Europe, where beekeepers have seen a **30% decrease in hives and honey production** from hornet attacks.

IDENTIFICATION

- .75 - 1 inch long for workers, queens slightly larger
- Ends of legs are yellow (basitarsus and tarsi)
- 4th abdominal segment is yellow-orange

REPORTING

Report suspected sightings of the yellow-legged hornet to the Washington State Department of Agriculture immediately. Snap a photo and report online or email the photo and include the location.

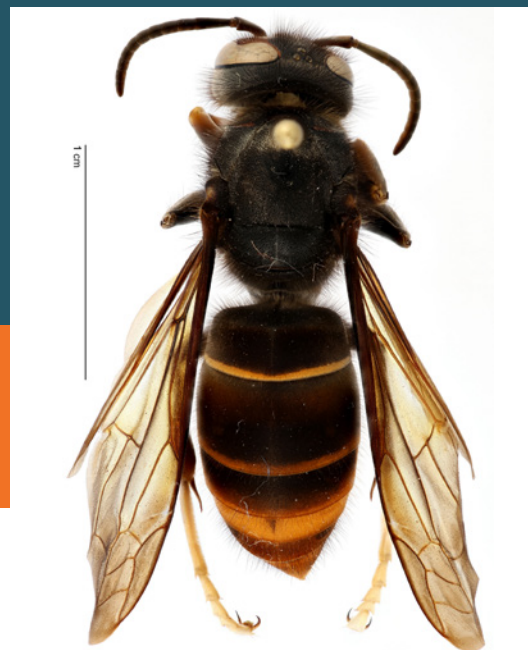
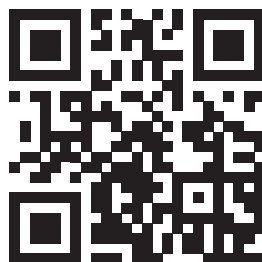
- agr.wa.gov/hornets or scan the QR code below
- hornets@agr.wa.gov

PRESERVING SPECIMENS

If you can safely capture a specimen or find one dead, place it in the freezer in a sealed container and contact WSDA for further instructions.

MORE INFORMATION

- hornets@agr.wa.gov
- (800) 443-6684
- agr.wa.gov/hornets
- Media: pio@agr.wa.gov



Honey bee

Yellow-legged hornet