

How to make & operate a monitoring station to attract Yellow-legged Asian Hornets

The only scientifically proven way to control Yellow-legged Asian hornets is to locate and destroy their nests. Nest location involves tracking a flying hornet back to its nest, either by sight or by radio detection tracking. You can help this tracking process by attracting a hornet to a monitoring station located in your garden and reporting the sighting as explained below

The hornets find their food by smell and so the monitoring station sets out to create a large plume of sweetly smelling aroma to draw in the hornets. Use a monitoring station during July, August and September. Hornets usually feed at the station early in the morning and in the later afternoon.

A monitoring station can be made by taking any shallow, open-topped container into which an absorbent material is placed, held down by a few small stones, on to which the liquid attractant is poured. Don't flood the container, otherwise the visiting insects will drown. Add enough "solid objects" like pebbles and twigs for the insects to hold on to, while they drink the attractant.



Credit: Gordon Bull

Photo of two marked Yellow-legged Asian Hornets feeding in a monitoring station.

When the insects are feeding, they are not aggressive enabling photos to be taken. Place the monitoring station off the ground away from young children & pets, in a sunny position, where you can easily keep an eye on it. The monitoring station will attract wasps, European hornets too, so be sure to know what a Yellow-legged Asian hornet looks like.

If you see one feeding, take a photo and report it via the Asian Hornet Watch available for Apple & Android phones.

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/asian-hornet-watch/id1161238813>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.ac.ceh.hornets>

Attractant Recipe

1 kg sugar 1 litre water 250 mL of jam (no bits) 250 mL of Grenadine or red fruit syrup
250 mL apple cider/white wine vinegar (not malt vinegar): deters bees: alternative cheap/old beer

Heat the water in a pan and dissolve the sugar and jam. Allow the liquid to cool and add the grenadine and vinegar. Bottle and keep sealed until you use the lure.