



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PEST ALERT

Common name: Asian giant hornet

Latin name: *Vespa mandarinia*

After two separate detections in Canada last fall, Washington confirmed a report of a suspected Asian giant hornet in Blaine, WA in December and also received three credible reports of Asian giant hornet attacks on honeybee hives in Blaine and Bellingham. If established, this hornet will have serious negative impacts on the environment, economy, and human health in Washington State.

PLEASE REPORT SUSPECTED ASIAN GIANT HORNET ATTACKS OR SIGHTINGS, INCLUDING LOCATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS, IF AVAILABLE.

- The hornets are generally 1.5 - 2" long with black and dull yellow/orange striped abdomen and a large yellow/orange head.
- Asian giant hornets mostly nest in the ground, although nests near the ground in hollow trees have rarely been recorded. They are not known to nest in tree branches.
- They are social insects that form large colonies and are voracious predators of honeybees and other insects. A single hornet can kill dozens of honeybees in a few minutes and a group of hornets can destroy an entire hive by killing the adults and removing bee larvae and feeding them to their own grubs.
- They are not generally aggressive towards people but will sting when threatened. Their venom is very toxic, and multiple stings can require hospitalization and in rare circumstances can cause death.



Contact us for more information:

WSDA Pest Program
PestProgram@agr.wa.gov
1-800-443-6684

REPORT SUSPECTED ATTACKS OR SIGHTINGS AT:
agr.wa.gov/hornets