



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

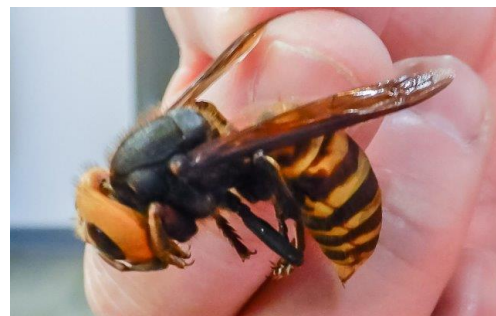
PEST ALERT

Common name: Northern giant hornet **Latin name:** *Vespa mandarinia*

After two separate detections in Canada last fall, Washington confirmed a report of a suspected northern giant hornet in Blaine, WA in December and also received three creditable reports of northern giant hornet attacks on honey bee 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 NORTHERN 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.
- Northern giant hornets mostly nest in the ground or in hollow tree cavities. They are not known to nest in tree branches.
- They are social insects that form large colonies and are voracious predators of honey bees and other insects. A single hornet can kill dozens of honey bees 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 dangerous. Multiple stings can require hospitalization and in rare circumstances can cause death.



Contact us for more information:

WSDA Pest Program

hornets@agr.wa.gov

1-800-443-6684

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