



ASIAN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #10 – AUGUST 17, 2020

- [New confirmed detections](#)
- [USDA releases complete Asian giant hornet genome](#)
- [New specimen drop-off location added](#)
- [Welcome to our new cooperators](#)
- [Trapping update](#)
- [#ThatIsNotAnAsianGiantHornet social media educational campaign](#)
- [Stepping up social media](#)

NEW CONFIRMED DETECTIONS

BIRCH BAY – UNMATED QUEEN TRAPPED

On July 14, a WSDA technician collected and submitted trap contents from a trap near Birch Bay in Whatcom County to WSDA's entomology lab. The contents were processed on July 29, at which time an Asian giant hornet was discovered in the trap. WSDA issued a [news release](#) about this catch as it was the first detection in a trap. We also held a [virtual press conference about the catch](#).



The specimen was submitted to USDA for examination. USDA determined that the specimen was an **unmated queen**. In Japan, these queens are also still active in early July, so this seems to match the known biology.

Although this vicinity was already partially covered by the existing Custer/Blaine grid, WSDA will be expanding that grid to place more traps in the area.

CUSTER – MALE TRAPPED

On July 29, a WSDA technician collected and submitted trap contents from a trap near Custer in Whatcom County. WSDA's entomology lab processed the trap on August 13 and discovered a male Asian giant hornet in the trap. WSDA issued a [news release about this catch](#) today.

Again, this catch was in the Blaine/Custer grid. The new catch will expand that grid slightly and live traps will be placed in the area in hopes of trapping a live Asian giant hornet, tagging it, and following it to locate and destroy the nest.



USDA RELEASES COMPLETE ASIAN GIANT HORNET GENOME

USDA's Agricultural Research Service has released the complete genome of the Asian giant hornet. [Learn more about USDA's latest scientific contribution to the fight against this invasive pest.](#)

NEW DROP-OFF LOCATION ADDED

We've added a new drop-off location in **Clallam County** at the WSU Extension Office. You can always find the most up-to-date [drop-off locations on our website](#). Be sure to check back before dropping off your specimens as drop-off locations are subject to change.

WELCOME NEW COOPERATORS

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new cooperators! Thank you for your support!

- Port of Port Townsend
- Port of Port Jefferson
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Lummi Nation

TRAPPING UPDATE

Citizen scientists and cooperators have placed over 1400 traps throughout the state! We continue to receive weekly reports and trap content submissions and are working through them as quickly as possible.

WHAT ARE WE CATCHING (BESIDES ASIAN GIANT HORNETS)?

We have now processed over 2,400 trap content submissions! Below is a detailed report of what we have found thus far in traps as of August 10, 2020.

	WSDA Bottle (1250)	Public Bottle (491 samples + 675 photos)	Totals
Vespa mandarinia	1	0	1
<i>Vespula acadica</i>	5	14	19
<i>Vespula alascensis</i>	545	335	880
<i>Vespula germanica</i>	79	12	91
<i>Vespula consobrina</i>	3	1	4
<i>Vespula infernalis</i>	1	0	1
<i>Vespula pensylvanica</i>	750	238	988
<i>Vespula atropilosa</i>	0	18	18
TOTAL VESPULA	1383	618	2001
<i>Dolichovespula arenaria</i>	3907	947	4854
<i>Dolichovespula maculata</i>	3548	360	3908
<i>Dolichovespula alpicola</i>	7	0	7
<i>Dolichovespula norvegicoides</i>	15	0	15
TOTAL DOLICHOVESPULA	7477	1307	8784
<i>Polistes</i>	181	17	198
Eumeninae wasp	2	0	2
<i>Bombus vosnesenskii</i>	6	0	6
<i>Bombus impatiens</i>	36	0	36
<i>Bombus mixtus</i>	2	0	2
<i>Bombus other</i>	25	9	34
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	84	8	92
TOTAL BEE	153	17	170

Thus far bee bycatch has been minimal, which seems to indicate that the rice cooking wine has been fairly effective at dissuading the bees from entering the traps.

BILLBOARDS CONTINUE

We continue to change up the content on the digital billboard on I-5 near Ferndale. Have you seen it? Here is one of the new images. Keep an eye out if you are in the area!



#THATISNOTANASIANGIANTHORNET

Since we started receiving thousands of false reports of Asian giant hornets, we have tried various methods of educating the public about what is and what is not an Asian giant hornet. We recently started a social media campaign called #ThatIsNotAnAsianGiantHornet which is being very well received. Every time we post, we get comments about what a great educational campaign it is and how much people appreciate the posts.

The campaign consists of putting a picture of an Asian giant hornet next to a picture of one of the many insects we receive reports of that are not Asian giant hornets. The image is then posted with the hashtag #ThatIsNotAnAsianGiantHornet and a brief explanation of the differences between the two insects. The first post we shared has reached almost 100,000 people on Facebook and has been shared 1,300 times.



While the effort started on social media, several news outlets picked up the story.

STEPPING UP SOCIAL MEDIA

While Asian giant hornet already has a prominent place in WSDA's social media calendar these days, we will be stepping up our paid promotions during August and September, when people are most likely to see worker Asian giant hornets out and about. Don't be surprised if you see posts and ads from us requesting that you report Asian giant hornet sightings. Please help spread the word by liking and sharing the posts when you see them!



STAY CONNECTED

- [View past news releases, blogs, and pest program updates](#) about Asian giant hornet.
- Join the [Asian giant hornet Facebook group](#).
- Join the [Pest Program email listserv](#).
- Follow WSDA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).