



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION PEST PROGRAM

ASIAN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #12 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

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NEW DETECTIONS

NONE

TRACK, DON'T WHACK!

On October 1, WSDA will begin a new campaign targeting beekeepers called "Track, don't whack." The campaign will encourage beekeepers to report hive attacks and ask them to not kill Asian giant hornets but to note their direction of flight. Since we need live hornets to find and eradicate the colony, killing Asian giant hornets at the hive will be counterproductive.

We are also establishing a new phone line for beekeepers to call to report active hive attacks. The new phone line will be answered not only during regular business hours but also during the evenings and weekends.

SENDING TRAP COLLECTIONS IN PAPER TOWELS

Our entomology lab has a request for trappers: please put the specimens inside the alcohol-soaked paper towel (and maybe fold the edges shut) when sending in your specimens. Don't put the specimens in the bag and then put a paper towel in the bag. By the time they make it to our entomologists, they

end up picking insect bits off of the inside of bags! Making sure they are wrapped in the paper towel will be a big time saver for the team.

We can't thank our citizen scientist and cooperators trappers enough for all of the time, effort, and financial commitment they have made to this trapping effort!

WASHINGTON PROPOSES ADDING ALL HORNETS TO STATE'S QUARANTINE PESTS

On September 2, WSDA filed a CR-101 – the first step in the rule making process – to add all hornets (*Vespa*) to the state's quarantined pests. Hornets, including the Asian giant hornet, pose both direct and indirect threats to Washington's agriculture. Hornets directly attack several types of tree fruit, grapes, and berries. Additionally, they kill honey bees, which many agricultural crops depend on for pollination.

You can download the CR-101 and keep track of the progress of this rule change, including opportunities for submitting comments or attending public hearings, on WSDA's website at <https://agr.wa.gov/services/rulemaking/wac-16-470-hornet-quarantine-090220>.

Please note – the bald faced hornet is not a true hornet and would not be included as a quarantined pest.

NEW #THATISNOTANASIANGIANTHORNET WEBPAGE

WSDA's #ThatIsNotAnAsianGiantHornet social media outreach campaign has been very popular! In order to make the images easily available, you can now view and [download them from our website](#). We will continue to add more images as we continue the campaign. If you use any of the images on social media, be sure to add the #ThatIsNotAnAsianGiantHornet hashtag to your post!

SENTINEL HIVES PLACED IN WHATCOM COUNTY

Tim Lawrence and Sue Cobey from Washington State University Extension will place some hives at three places in Whatcom County, which WSDA will monitor for hornet activity. WSDA will have exclusion/capture cages on those hives to collect any Asian giant hornets.

This is another tool that WSDA is using to detect Asian giant hornets. There are several beekeepers in the area that are also attempting similar trapping/detection methods.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE WITH USDA

Interested in USDA's latest research on the Asian giant hornet? Stay tuned to the [Agricultural Research Service's blog Tellus](#) for updates on their cutting-edge scientific work.

UPDATE FROM CANADA

Canada continues its trapping but has not trapped any Asian giant hornets. They are starting to test cat food and bacon baits and will report any successful results to WSDA. While they continue to receive daily reports of Asian giant hornets (just like WSDA), none of the reports have been confirmed.

ASIAN GIANT HORNET GENETICS ARTICLE PUBLISHED

An article on the genetic results on two Asian giant hornet samples collected in 2019 (one from British Columbia and one from Washington) has been published in the Annals of the Entomological Society of America. The article (First Reports of *Vespa mandarinia* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) in North America Represent Two Separate Maternal Lineages in Washington State, United States, and British Columbia, Canada) can be viewed using the link under “Resources” on WSDA’s website at agr.wa.gov/hornets. An [abstract of the article](#) is also available.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY FINALIZES PUBLICATION FOR BEEKEEPERS

Washington State University has finalized its publication with advice for beekeepers. The document, “The Asian giant hornet – what the public and beekeepers need to know” was officially published this summer after an initial draft was made available this spring. The updated, official publication is available on [WSDA’s webpage about Asian giant hornet for beekeepers](#) under the Resources section.

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- Join the [Asian giant hornet Facebook group](#).
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