

ASIAN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #13 – OCTOBER 7, 2020

- [New detections](#)
- [First live Asian giant hornet capture and tagging event](#)
- [Track, don't whack!](#)
- [New public data dashboard](#)
- [Sentinel hives placed in Whatcom County](#)
- [Asian giant hornet article published on potential habitat](#)
- [Update from Canada](#)
- [Emergency hive attack hotline, for Washington beekeepers only](#)

Many of the activities covered in this update were discussed in WSDA's virtual press conference last week. However, we wanted to include them in this written format for those who may not have seen last week's virtual update.

NEW DETECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 21 AND 25 – BLAINE

WSDA received a report of two Asian giant hornet specimens collected near Blaine through the online reporting form. The reporting party killed the first specimen on September 21. Afterward, they set out an Asian giant hornet trap which successfully trapped a second hornet. A photo of both specimens was submitted to WSDA on September 26.



SEPTEMBER 28 – BLAINE

On September 28, WSDA visited the residence to discuss the report (above) which was submitted over the weekend. At that time, the resident provided another photo of an Asian giant hornet investigating a paper wasp nest.



SEPTEMBER 29 – BLAINE

On September 29, the citizen reported seeing another Asian giant hornet at their residence. WSDA entomologist Chris Looney returned to the residence to investigate. After about an hour, Chris Looney sighted an Asian giant hornet near the house and was able to catch it live with a butterfly net.



[Click here to watch a short video of the captured Asian giant hornet.](#)

SEPTEMBER 29 – BLAINE

WSDA staff conducted a search of the area in attempt to find a nest. There was a lantern-style electric yard light in the area with a paper wasp nest inside. Upon examination, a dead Asian giant hornet was found in the bottom of the light.



SEPTEMBER 30 – BLAINE

WSDA checked with neighbors in the area and one neighbor reported capturing an image of Asian giant hornet on their doorbell cam. They were able to provide a photograph taken that morning.



FIRST LIVE ASIAN GIANT HORNET CAPTURE AND TAGGING ATTEMPT

The hornet captured by Chris Looney on September 29 is believed to be the first live capture of an Asian giant hornet in the United States. The hornet was put in a cooler with ice to keep it calm.

The following day, WSDA made its first attempt to attach a tracking tag to a live Asian giant hornet. Three methods were attempted: super glue, double-sided tacky tape, and floss. Tying on the tracker with floss seemed to be the most successful. However, in the end the hornet was unable to fly. Several factors could have contributed, but the most likely cause was a small amount of glue that smeared on its wings from when the tracker slid off the hornet during the initial gluing attempt.

WSDA has set multiple live traps in the area and has spoken with many neighbors. We are hoping to capture another live hornet or to receive enough reports in the area to triangulate the nest location.

TRACK, DON'T WHACK!

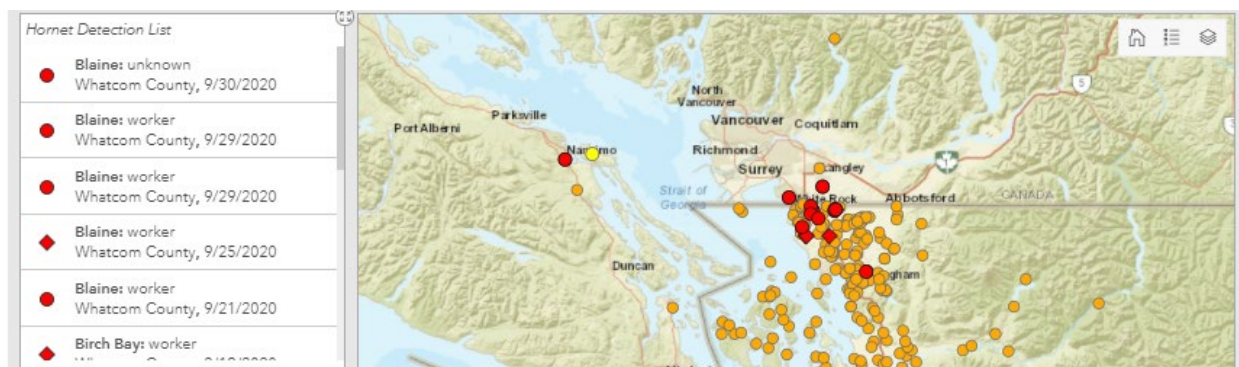
The “Track! Don’t whack!” campaign has started – with more urgency than we had envisioned, given last week’s activities. We are urging those who spot Asian giant hornets NOT to kill them at this time of year. While a dead Asian giant hornet does provide a detection point, it is more useful to capture a live Asian giant hornet or to watch the flight direction. This will allow tracking back to the nest. Please do not try to capture live Asian giant hornets, but report for the WSDA to capture. Killing one worker hornet doesn’t do much for stopping the colony, but seeing where they are flying gives us good information about the nest’s location. Eradicating a nest is our goal!

Asian giant hornet reports can be made at agr.wa.gov/hornets, hornets@agr.wa.gov, or by calling 1-800-443-6684.



NEW PUBLIC DATA DASHBOARD

We've updated our hornets webpage with an [Asian giant hornet public dashboard](#). This interactive map updates in real time to report detections and graphs the type of Asian giant hornet. It also lists how many traps citizen scientists and WSDA has deployed.



SENTINAL HIVES PLACED IN WHATCOM COUNTY

Sentinel hives were placed in Whatcom County around Asian giant hornet detections with the help of Dr. Timothy Lawrence with WSU Extension. The four western honey bee hives could be a potential lure for tracking Asian giant hornets. They have special cages allowing honey bees to enter and leave freely. However, when an Asian giant hornet enters the hive it will be trapped in an exterior cage. This is another joint effort to help locate a nest for eradication.



ASIAN GIANT HORNET ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON POTENTIAL HABITAT

Researchers at Washington State University used habitat suitability models and dispersal simulations to assess potential invasive spread of Asian giant hornets. Asian giant hornets are most likely to establish in areas with warm to cool annual mean temperatures, high precipitation, and high human activity. [Click here to view the article.](#)

UPDATE FROM CANADA

Canada has no new Asian giant hornet detections. Canadian officials are planning to place traps on their side of the border across from the September 21st detections in Washington. They are continuing to test cat food and bacon as potential lures.

EMERGENCY HIVE ATTACK HOTLINE, FOR WASHINGTON MANAGED BEES ONLY

Honey bees are especially threatened by Asian giant hornets, therefore the WSDA is offering an emergency hotline for beekeepers to report hive attacks. Reporting hive attacks can help WSDA track and eradicate Asian giant hornets. This emergency hotline is to be used **only by beekeepers** in the state

of Washington who **witness Asian giant hornets attacking a managed hive** or near an apiary. When reporting, include the location, the flight direction of the hornet(s), and provide photo evidence if it can be safely obtained. Do not attempt to kill the hornet(s). Track, don't whack!

If you are suspecting a hive attack in the state of Washington call the emergency hive attack hotline at **360-902-1880**. Only call this emergency number if you are experiencing an active hive attack.

All non-hive attack sightings should be reported at agr.wa.gov/hornets, hornets@agr.wa.gov, or 1-800-443-6684.

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