



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION PEST PROGRAM

This week WSDA received USDA's new pest response guidelines for Asian giant hornet. These guidelines are a critical piece as we move forward with our plans to trap, track, and eradicate Asian giant hornets in Washington. The report is long but includes lots of great information about the Asian giant hornet, its lifecycle, trapping options, etc. We've uploaded the document to our website under "Resources" at agr.wa.gov/hornets if you'd like to download and read the report.

With the USDA guidelines in hand, our entomologists are finalizing their plans for trapping – especially considering possible spring trapping options which are the most time-pressing consideration.

Another interesting activity this week was evaluating thermal imaging technology. In order to eradicate a colony, we have to trap live worker hornets, tag them, and follow them back to their colony. However, the colony is almost always located in the ground and can be in forested areas, which will make tracking and finding the colony difficult. If we are able to track them to near a colony location, thermal imagery may provide the option to detect a hive or hive entrance.



Demoing thermal image camera.

Outreach continues and activity is really picking up in the Asian Giant Hornet Watch Facebook group. This group has been great for not only sharing information about AGH, but also getting a feel for what people are thinking and what questions are top most on their mind. Lots of residents are interested in trapping, suits that protect from AGH stings, and the overall plan for dealing with this pest.

We're also starting an "Asian giant hornet facts" Facebook post every other week which we are paying to promote. The first one has been wildly popular with over 500 shares, nearly 4,000 engagements and a total reach so far of over 36,000 people, mostly along the I-5 corridor.



ASIAN GIANT HORNET FACTS

Asian giant hornet stingers are longer than other bees or wasps. They can sting through typical beekeeping attire. They can also sting repeatedly.

We continue to update our AGH webpage to include more information. Very shortly we'll be adding an FAQ as well as information from the Department of Health on dealing with AGH stings.

As always, if you have any questions about WSDA's work on AGH, feel free to contact us at pestprogram@agr.wa.gov or 1-800-443-6684.



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