

HORNET HERALD

Northern giant hornet stakeholder update



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

NORTHERN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

#24.03 – July 24, 2024

WSDA TRAPPING UPDATE

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is monitoring for northern giant hornets in the northwest corner of Whatcom County with almost 900 bottle traps.

The field crew started off their season with a rigorous week of orientation: learning how to make traps, install traps, and log them into our [online dashboard](#).



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BE A HORNET TRAPPER

WSDA's hornet team is fully staffed, but it's not too late for you to become a [citizen scientist](#)! Trapping began in July and Washington

residents are still welcome to help monitor for northern giant hornets. You can build, hang, log, and monitor a bottle trap to potentially catch hornet workers that will be active through November.

If a hornet flies near the bottle trap, it smells the scent of the bait and is lured in. Essentially, you could find out if hornets are traveling through your backyard. Once captured, WSDA will visit the location and attempt to lure a live hornet. That hornet will then be tagged, released, and followed back to the nest using tracking equipment.

Those who participate should know that trapping can be a commitment. It will require you to log your traps on WSDA's online mapping system and check your traps weekly through November. Any trapping between now and November is helpful. If you plan to be absent for longer than a week, take your trap down and replace it when you return. Any commitment to monitoring is appreciated, even if you can't trap all the way until November.

So far residents and cooperators have placed over 100 bottle traps. Can you help WSDA add more? Learn how to trap for hornets on our [trapping webpage](#).

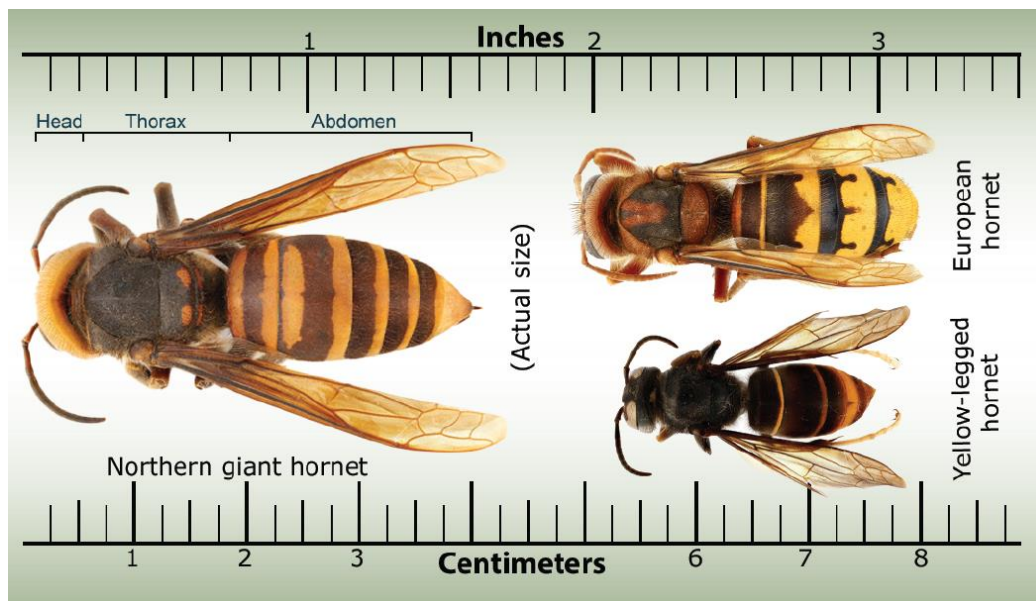


USDA SUPPORTS STATES' YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET HUNTERS AND POLLINATOR HEALTH

Last August, a Savannah, GA beekeeper discovered an unusual-looking hornet outside of his apiary, and reported it to the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA). As it turned out, it was an invasive yellow-legged hornet and the first confirmed detection in the United States. Three months later, South Carolina officials captured their first hornet. So where are they now? [Read more in this USDA blog.](#)

NEW HORNET CARDS

WSDA is excited to share a new outreach card, in addition to the popular hornet tattoos. Find WSDA's hornet booth at an event to collect your new card. WSDA also has resources in English and Spanish available for you to download on the [additional resources webpage](#).



If you have a group interested in learning more about northern giant hornet and hosting an educational session please contact Cassie Cichorz at ccichorz@agr.wa.gov.

EVENTS

The Barkley Farmers Market

WSDA is excited to attend The Barkley Farmers Market on Thursday July 25 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. This is a family-friendly, free market

located at 2215 Rimland Drive. Stop by to see how you can help protect pollinators by learning about northern giant hornets.

HORNET MICROBIOME STRUCTURE

The WSDA Plant Pathology & Molecular Diagnostics Lab has been busy extracting the gut contents of hornets to characterize differences in microbiome structure between introduced and native populations. The bacterial symbionts of insects are important to overall fitness and success, and this balance can be impacted when a species moves into a new environment. We look forward to sharing any new and interesting insights!



UPDATE FROM CANADA

Canada still receives and solicits reports from the public. Luckily, no reports have been northern giant hornet.

NEW DETECTIONS

There are no detections yet this year. Northern giant hornets are the world's largest hornet. They are usually 1.5 - 2 inches in length and have a large orange head with prominent eyes and a black and orange/yellow striped abdomen. [Reporting sightings on our website.](#)



STAY CONNECTED

WSDA is dedicated to working with the public to provide information on northern giant hornets.

View [past news releases, blogs, and Pest Program updates](#) about northern giant hornet.

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

Join the [Pest Program email listserv](#).

Follow WSDA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).