ADOPT A WASP NEST TO HELP DETECT ASIAN GIANT HORNETS

WSDA is asking you to become a citizen scientist and monitor paper wasp nests. Over the last two years, residents of Whatcom County have noticed hornets attacking paper wasp nests. In 2021, WSDA tracked a hornet and observed it repeatedly visiting the same paper wasp nest. Each visit lasted five to ten minutes and the hornet removed paper wasp larvae.

LOCATE

Locate paper wasp nests that you have access to and can monitor through October. Then log the nest locations using the Adopt A Paper Wasp Registration Form.

MONITOR & REPORT

Visit the nests each week, observe them, and then log your nest activity on the Paper Wasp Nest Check-In form. WSDA asks you to monitor the nests for at least five minutes during the day once per week, but you can check the nests for as long and as often as you would like.

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK JUNE 20 - 26

Pollinator species help produce more than 100 crops grown in the United States. Honey bees and other pollinators are essential for food security and agricultural food production.

Most of us are aware that Asian giant hornets specialize in attacking honey bees. But did you know that their diet consists of other insects as well? WSDA has been analyzing hornet frass to see what else they consume. Click here to view the hornets menu, and see a first glimpse at what insect populations could be harmed if Asian giant hornets become established in Washington.
WINGS
Asian giant hornet cuisine with a Pacific Northwest flare

SMALL PLATES

cluster fly $7.49
orange legged drone fly $7.99
bristle fly $6.49
bronze birch borer beetle $8.49
western honey bee $9.49

regular, carpathian, or anatolian flavors available

ENTREES

western yellowjacket $7.99
german yellowjacket $9.99
aerial yellowjacket $14.99
bald faced hornet $15.99
european paper wasp $10.49
golden paper wasp $16.99

FAMILY STYLE

paddle-tailed darner dragonfly $15.49
shadow darner dragonfly $14.99
large yellow underwing moth $17.49
blinded sphinx moth $24.99
red admiral butterfly $23.99

WINGLESS

cow (beef patty) $6.49
CITIZEN SCIENTIST TRAPPING BEGINS JULY 1

Citizen scientist trapping is right around the corner. It’s time to gather materials and build your bottle traps! However, WSDA asks you to refrain from placing traps before July, when worker hornets become active.

In order for trapping to be successful, 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.

Click here to learn more about how to become a citizen scientist trapper.

HORNETS ACROSS THE GLOBE, PART 2

In the previous Hornet Herald, we introduced you to research involving genetic sequencing of hornet DNA. Now WSDA entomologists are overseas and installing monitoring equipment to gather hornet data in South Korea. They are working to test various hornet attractants, and study hornet foraging behavior with the help of collaborating scientists. This research will aid development of more effective trapping and tracking techniques for Asian giant hornet in Washington state.
UPDATE FROM CANADA

British Columbia has no confirmed detections for 2022. Like WSDA, their program monitored for Asian giant hornet queens. They will additionally trap for workers this season and ask the public to report potential sightings.

NEW DETECTIONS

There have been no confirmed sightings of Asian giant hornets reported to WSDA in 2022.

It is still important to be on the lookout: dead or alive, AGH reports are helpful. If you think you have seen a hornet, report it online, email at horns@agr.wa.gov, or call 1-800-443-6684. Include a photo if you can safely obtain one.

STAY CONNECTED

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

- 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.