IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO TRAP FOR HORNETS

Citizen scientist trapping started July 1! Each year residents place hundreds of traps to help monitor for this invasive pest. Do you want to place a bottle trap but missed the July 1 date? There is still time since workers will be active through November. It is important to find any populations as soon as possible, but any commitment to monitoring is appreciated.

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, but if you’ll be on vacation for longer than a week, take your trap down and replace it when you return. Visit this page to find resources on how to build and log your trap.
WITH HORNET TRAPPING, FINDING NOTHING MEANS SOMETHING

For the past two years, citizen scientists and WSDA have set thousands of traps to help look for hornets throughout the state. Yet very few of those traps have actually caught a hornet. Not catching hornets, however, is good – and provides meaningful information. Click here to read the full blog.

WSDA FIELD TRAINING DAY

WSDA is hosting a hornet field training day next week in Whatcom County. Staff will practice different scenarios without live hornets. They will tune in equipment used to track future hornets. They will also put on their protective suits and test nest removal equipment.
WELCOME BACK NATHAN

Nathan Roueche started with WSDA in 2020 as a field trapper on the giant hornet response team. The next season Nathan started overseeing the other field trappers as a field coordinator. In 2022, he completed his Masters in Biology from Western Washington University. This trapping season, Nathan became a Pest Biologist with WSDA to further oversee the giant hornet response.

When not in the field, he enjoys landscape ecology, especially when it involves invasive species and local climate. Nathan believes the chance to continually improve WSDA’s trapping and tracking techniques for the project is incredibly enjoyable. He is “thrilled to have found a home on the hornet response project.”

HORNETS ACROSS THE GLOBE, PART 3

WSDA entomologists recently returned from South Korea where they were studying hornets, including the Asian giant hornet, in their native range and partnering with local cooperators to conduct ongoing research. In addition to installing monitoring equipment, WSDA entomologist Sven-Erik Spichiger deployed various traps and was able to capture six hornets.

Even though entomologists are back in Washington, overseas collaborating scientists will continue to gather data and test experimental traps. All results and findings will be shared with WSDA to help eradicate invasive hornets from Washington.

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.