



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

# PEST ALERT

**Common name:** Asian giant hornet

**Latin name:** *Vespa mandarinia*

After two separate detections in Canada last fall, Washington confirmed a report of a suspected Asian giant hornet in Blaine, WA in December and also received three credible reports of Asian giant hornet attacks on honeybee hives in Blaine and Bellingham. If established, this hornet will have serious negative impacts on the environment, economy, and human health in Washington State.

**PLEASE REPORT SUSPECTED ASIAN GIANT HORNET ATTACKS OR SIGHTINGS, INCLUDING LOCATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS, IF AVAILABLE.**

- The hornets are generally 1.5 - 2" long with black and dull yellow/orange striped abdomen and a large yellow/orange head.
- Asian giant hornets mostly nest in the ground, although nests near the ground in hollow trees have rarely been recorded. They are not known to nest in tree branches.
- They are social insects that form large colonies and are voracious predators of honeybees and other insects. A single hornet can kill dozens of honeybees in a few minutes and a group of hornets can destroy an entire hive by killing the adults and removing bee larvae and feeding them to their own grubs.
- They are not generally aggressive towards people but will sting when threatened. Their venom is very toxic, and multiple stings can require hospitalization and in rare circumstances can cause death.



**Contact us for more information:**

**WSDA Pest Program**  
[PestProgram@agr.wa.gov](mailto:PestProgram@agr.wa.gov)  
1-800-443-6684

**REPORT SUSPECTED ATTACKS OR SIGHTINGS AT:**  
[agr.wa.gov/hornets](http://agr.wa.gov/hornets)



**Washington**  
State Department of  
**Agriculture**

Plant Protection  
Entomology Lab  
PO Box 42560  
Olympia WA 98504  
[pestprogram@agr.wa.gov](mailto:pestprogram@agr.wa.gov)

## Pest Submission Form

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The Washington State Department of Agriculture can provide identification of arthropod specimens. Please complete this form and submit it with your specimen(s). Specimens without this form may not be identified.

### Specimen Requirements

1. Most arthropod specimens should be dead, but please contact us if you have immature insects (e.g., caterpillars).
2. Most specimens should be placed in 70-80% ethyl or isopropyl alcohol in a leak-proof vial. Mealy bugs should be frozen and placed in a hard plastic container with dry paper towels.
3. The vial should be placed in a ziploc-style bag.
4. Specimens from different locations (if applicable) should be placed in different vials.
5. A completed sample submission form must accompany the vial /container.

### Required Information

Name of submitter: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (or other location information) where specimen was collected:

Date collected: \_\_\_\_\_ Plant host /habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person who collected specimen: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Special Instructions:

Mail the vial /container and completed form, or deliver in person to:

**Washington State Department of Agriculture**

**Attn: Entomology lab**

**1111 Washington Street SE**

**PO Box 42560**

**Olympia WA 98504**

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Information collected by WSDA becomes a public record and may be disclosed unless exempted by federal or state law.