



Asian giant hornet is an invasive species that was discovered in Whatcom County in 2019. Asian giant hornets attack honey bees and other insects. They can kill an entire beehive in a matter of hours. While initially detected in Whatcom County, it is not known how widespread this pest may be.

### Risk to hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts

Asian giant hornets do not generally bother people unless they feel threatened. When enjoying the outdoors, the greatest risk comes from disturbing an Asian giant hornet nest. Asian giant hornets nest in the ground, primarily in forested areas.

**Stings: allergic reactions and more.** Asian giant hornets do not generally bother people. However, they will sting if they feel threatened. They can sting repeatedly and their venom is more toxic than that of local bees and wasps. Stings can be serious and even life threatening if you are allergic or receive repeated stings. You could be at risk for stings if you:

- step on a nest
- swat at them
- accidentally disturb them when hiking outdoors

### What outdoor enthusiasts can do

**Stay on the trail!** This is the easiest way to avoid accidentally stepping on an Asian giant hornet nest.

When enjoying the outdoors, take antihistamines with you in case of an Asian giant hornet sting. If you see Asian giant hornets or their nest, calmly leave the area immediately. If you are stung, wash and apply ice to the area as soon as possible. If you are allergic to stings or are stung multiple times, seek immediate medical attention.

### Report Asian giant hornet sightings

WSDA is currently working to locate and eradicate populations of Asian giant hornet in Washington. Learn about Asian giant hornet and how to identify it. If you encounter an Asian giant hornet, note the location, obtain a photograph if you can safely do so, and report it. You can report Asian giant hornet using these methods:

- Visit [agr.wa.gov/hornets](http://agr.wa.gov/hornets)
- Call 1-800-443-6684
- Email [hornets@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hornets@agr.wa.gov)

Learn more about Asian giant hornet at [agr.wa.gov/hornets](http://agr.wa.gov/hornets).



*ABOVE: These Asian giant hornets will leave piles of dead bees, most of them headless, outside their beehive, similar to that shown in the photo above. This photo is courtesy of Washington beekeeper Teddy McFall. ( WSDA has not been able to confirm that this is definitely the result of an AGH attack. )*

