



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION
Pest Program

Trapping *for* **ASIAN GIANT HORNETS**



TRAPPING for ASIAN GIANT HORNETS

For Washington Residents Only

There has recently been national attention on Asian giant hornets that were found in Washington State. The trapping instructions below are for people who wish to participate in citizen scientist trapping within Washington State ONLY.

IF YOU ARE NOT IN WASHINGTON STATE DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE WASHINGTON STATE TRAPPING PROGRAM. Please seek out guidance from your own state's Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for your interest in assisting in trapping for Asian giant hornets. Asian giant hornets pose a serious threat to honeybees, other insects, and even humans. By participating in trapping, and reporting the results to WSDA, you can help us understand and limit the spread and possibly even eradicate Asian giant hornets from Washington State.

Although we invite anyone in Washington to participate in trapping, we are particularly interested in trapping information from Whatcom, Skagit, Island, San Juan, Jefferson, and Clallam counties.

PLEASE DO NOT START TRAPPING UNTIL JULY, WHEN WORKERS WILL BECOME ACTIVE. Given that we believe the numbers of queens are very low, trapping before July is unlikely to catch a queen but will catch and kill native insects.

WARNING — Any trapping activities are performed AT YOUR OWN RISK

Asian giant hornets pose a risk to human health. While they do not generally bother humans, they will attack if they feel threatened. Participating in Asian giant hornet trapping could increase your risk of being stung. Typical beekeeping attire is not sufficient to protect you from Asian giant hornet stings. If you are allergic to bee or wasp stings, **DO NOT** engage in trapping for Asian giant hornets. Be sure to seek immediate medical attention if you have a reaction or are stung multiple times. If you find a suspected Asian giant hornet nest or have a live Asian giant hornet in your trap, **DO NOT** approach or attempt to remove it. Report it with the location to WSDA immediately at 1-800-443-6684 or PestProgram@agr.wa.gov.

Trapping — It's a Commitment

In order for trapping to be successful, those who participate should know that trapping is a commitment. It will require you to:

- obtain materials to build and maintain traps
- log your traps on WSDA's online mapping system
- check your traps weekly for 17 weeks starting in July and into the fall
- each week, submit trap contents if they contain a bee, hornet, or wasp of any kind or if there does not appear to be a bee, wasp, or hornet, submit a photo of the trap contents

The full instructions follow on the next page. Finally, we also have a [15-minute video](#) that we encourage you to watch all the way through so that you'll be fully informed about what Asian giant hornet trapping entails.

Bottle Traps

The trap in these instructions is known as a “bottle trap” and targets Asian giant hornet workers in the summer and fall. This is the same trap used by the hornet program in Nagoya, Japan.

WSDA asks that participants set traps at the beginning of July and keep them up through October.

EQUIPMENT

Below are the materials you will need for one trap for an entire season of trapping from July through October (17 weeks).

- 2 liter or 64 ounce plastic bottle
- Box cutter
- String or twine
- Orange juice (100% juice, no pulp, with few additives) - 17 4-ounce juice boxes
- Rice cooking wine (10-25% alcohol content) 64 ounces or 3 25-ounce bottles
- 5 x 6 x 2 inch storage container
- Strainer
- Isopropyl alcohol

Trap Assembly

PREPARE THE BOTTLE

Near the top of the bottle make 2 cm (0.78 inch) long “H” marks on three sides.



Using a box cutter or exacto knife, very carefully cut along the “H” marks.



Carefully fold the top tabs in and the bottom tabs out on all three sides.



Now the bottle is prepared.



PREPARE THE BAIT

Rice cooking wine will discourage honey bees from visiting the trap. Ensure that the alcohol content is between 10% and 25% by volume.



Use 4 ounces (1/2 cup) of rice cooking wine



Use 4 ounces (1/2 cup) of 100% real orange juice. 4.2 ounce juice boxes are perfect and have a long shelf life. We suggest pulp-free orange juice so that the pulp doesn't get stuck to any trapped insects.



Pour the rice cooking wine and orange juice into the bottle and replace the cap.



Select a Site

Hang the bottle at least 6 feet high on trees near forest edges, if possible. Do not hang bottles higher than 9 feet.

If hanging more than one trap, traps should be at least 50 feet apart.

Affix a sturdy string or wire around the neck of the bottle. Hang the trap so the closed side of the bottle faces the tree.

Only place traps on your own property or property that you have permission to access.

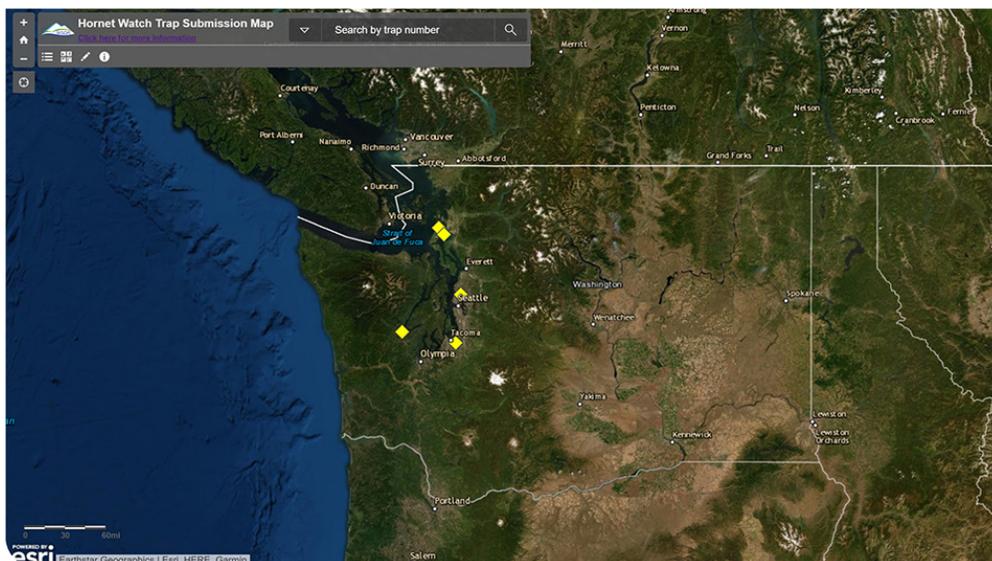


Trap hanging tips

- Pick a sturdy branch
- Tie a second string around the body of the trap and tree to secure the trap

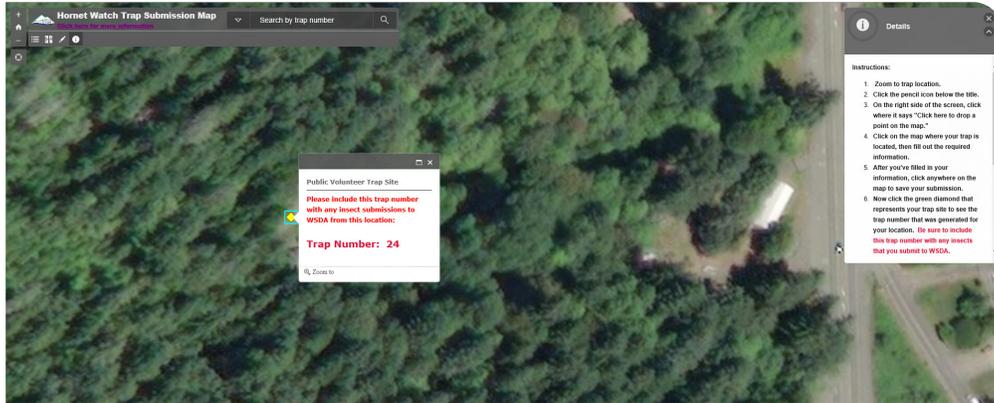
Report Trap Location

Visit WSDA's [Hornet Watch Trap Submission Map](#) to log the location of your trap(s.)



Report your trap location:

- Follow the instructions on the map
- Record your trap number(s) for your reference and write the number on the trap
- Create a new marker/pin for each trap



Servicing the Traps

Please note: If you find a live Asian giant hornet in your trap when you check it — **do not** handle the trap. Contact WSDA immediately at 1-800-443-6684.

Every week, collect a sample and replace the bait. This should be 17 services.

Bait should be replaced every week even if no specimens are captured.



Pour trap contents into the plastic strainer. **Tip:** Pour with the closed side of trap down. **RINSE** the specimens in the strainer with water to clean them.



Empty the contents of the strainer into a storage container. Gently tap the strainer over the storage container to dislodge any specimens. Refill your bottle with the orange juice and rice cooking wine as mentioned above and rehang your trap.



Reporting Your Catches

There are two ways to report your catches:

1. NO BEES, WASPS, OR HORNETS PRESENT IN TRAP

If you do not have any bees, wasps, or hornets caught in your trap, simply take a photo of the trap contents and submit the photo to aghtrapping@agr.wa.gov along with the trap number and date that the trap was changed. Once you have verified that you have a good photograph, you can discard the trap catches.

2. BEE, WASP, OR HORNET PRESENT IN TRAP

If it appears that there IS a bee, wasp, or hornet of any kind in the trap, please submit all of the trap contents to WSDA using the instructions below. Don't separate out the contents; just submit everything after having rinsed off the specimens with water.

Preparing the Sample

Place specimens in a plastic zipper bag with paper towel that has been soaked with isopropyl alcohol. Write the trap number and collection date on the bag with a permanent marker AND write the trap number and collection date on a paper tag in pencil and place it in the bag.

NOTE: Isopropyl alcohol dissolves ink from pens and Sharpies. To ensure your sample is counted use a **PENCIL** to write on a piece of paper.

PLEASE RETURN **ALL SPECIMENS EACH WEEK** if you believe there is a bee, wasp, or hornet in the trap - this includes both Asian giant hornets and anything else caught in the trap.

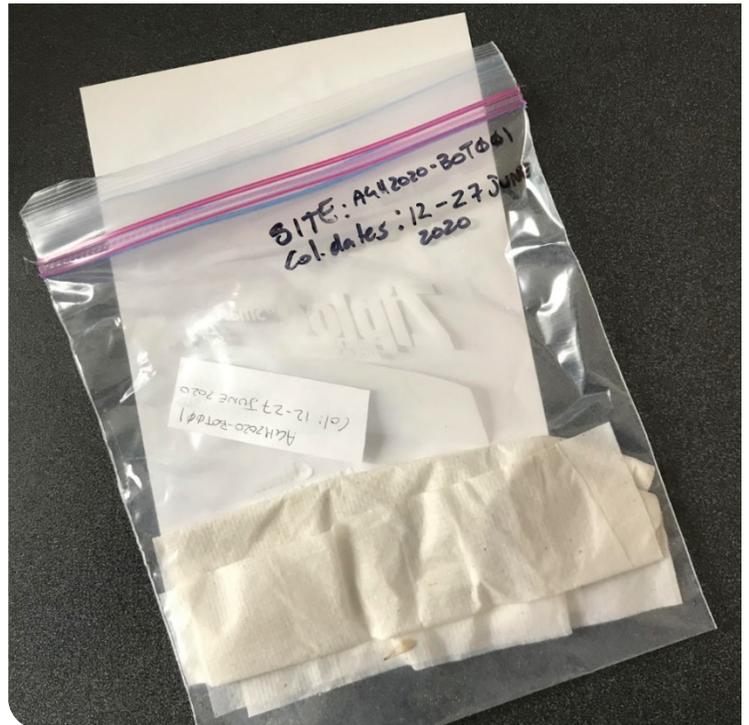


Write the trap number and collection date on the bag AND on a paper tag in the bag.

Every week you should have trap contents to send to WSDA, either submitting a photo (if there are no bees/wasps/hornets in the trap) or by submitting the actual trap contents (if there IS a bee/wasp/hornet in the trap.)

If you suspect that your trap collection contains a dead Asian giant hornet, take a photo of the suspected hornet and email the photo to aghtrapping@agr.wa.gov with the trap number and collection date before mailing in your specimen. Please note that it is a suspected Asian giant hornet in the subject line of the email.

In the unlikely event that your trap has no insects when you refresh the bait, send an email with the date the trap was checked and the trap number to aghtrapping@agr.wa.gov and let us know there were no specimens.



Mailing Samples

WSDA would like to evaluate all samples that contain a bee, wasp, or hornet. Please mail samples in a padded envelope every time they are collected to:

Chris Looney
WSDA
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia WA, 98501

Please do not wait until the end of the season to mail in your samples; submit them each week.

Again, if your trap does not appear to contain a bee, wasp, or hornet, you can simply send a picture of the trap contents to aghtrapping@agr.wa.gov each week.

Stay Connected

Join our [Asian Giant Hornet Watch Facebook group](#) to stay up-to-date on Asian giant hornet activities.

[Email](#) or call WSDA's Pest Program with questions about trapping for Asian giant hornets. 1-800-443-6684.

[Join our email distribution list](#) (be sure to select the box next to Asian giant hornet when you sign up.)