

Stop

The Invasion



Photographs courtesy of the Washington State Department of Agriculture

Asian Giant Hornet

Vespa mandarinia

Report Sightings

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[InvasivesSpecies.wa.gov](https://invasivespecies.wa.gov)

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What is it?

Asian giant hornet is an invasive species from Asia and a known predator of honeybees. Though not typically aggressive to humans, they will attack anything that threatens their colony, which usually nests in the ground. They can sting multiple times and have powerful venom that can inflict serious injury, or in some cases, death. In late summer through fall, hornets may attack honeybee colonies en masse, resulting in the complete destruction of a healthy colony in a matter of hours. The attack leaves piles of decapitated victims in front of the hive.

Is it here yet?

Yes. Asian giant hornets have been verified in Blaine and Bellingham as of February 2020.

Why should I care?

Asian giant hornet poses a serious threat to Washington honeybees and the honeybee industry. While the extent of possible damage to Washington's honeybee industry is not yet known, a similar invasive hornet in Europe has resulted in the reduction of beehives by 30 percent and up to a two-thirds reduction in honey yield.

What should I do if I find one?

Call 1-800-443-6684, e-mail pestprogram@agr.wa.gov, and upload photographs of sightings or attacks to agr.wa.gov/hornets.

Or you can report a sighting online at <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml>.

How can we stop it?

Report any sighting to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, or to the Washington Invasive Species Council reporting app. IMPORTANT NOTE: Use extreme caution near Asian giant hornets. The stinger of the Asian giant hornet is longer than that of a honeybee and the venom is more powerful than any local bee or wasp. If you find a colony do NOT attempt to remove or eradicate it. Report it immediately using one of the avenues above.



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What are its characteristics?

- Asian giant hornets grow to 1 ½ inches in length.
- Bodies are marked by yellow or orange and black stripes with large yellow or orange heads.
- Wingspan is about 3 inches.

How do I distinguish it from native species?

Asian giant hornets distinguishing feature is their size. There is not a native species of wasp or hornet in Washington State that grows to the size that Asian giant hornets regularly do. In addition to their large size, their yellow/orange heads are another identifying feature.

Where do I get more information?

- Washington State Department of Agriculture's Web site at:
<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/insects-pests-and-weeds/insects/hornets>

**Report
Sightings**

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