

ASIAN GIANT HORNET

(Vespa mandarinia)



This insect has recently been called the **“murder hornet”** in news reports, though that name is not used by scientists or beekeepers. To make sure you have the facts about the Asian giant hornet, the UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory (HBREL) team has provided an overview about this novel pest and its risk to honey bees.

- Native to Japan and can be found in many other countries throughout Asia.
- First known appearance in the U.S. was in fall of 2019. To date, this hornet has not been found in the U.S. outside of its very limited distribution in Washington State.
- 1.5 to 2 inches in length, has a large orange/yellow head with prominent eyes, black and yellow striped abdomen, and typically nests in the ground.
- Poses a potential threat to honey bee colonies by feeding on adult and immature honey bees.
- Regular monitoring and trapping efforts are currently underway to minimize the spread of this species.
- Many insects might be misidentified as Asian giant hornets, including
 - European hornets (<https://tinyurl.com/vespac>)
 - cicada killers (<https://tinyurl.com/sphecius>)
 - yellow jackets and baldfaced hornets (<https://tinyurl.com/vespula>)
- Any human interaction with any stinging insect can result in a medical consequence. This is not unique to human interactions with Asian giant hornets.

Visit our Featured Creatures publication on Asian giant hornets for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/vmandarinia>



Photo Credit: Colorado Professional Beekeeping Association

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED AN ASIAN GIANT HORNET
contact your state’s department of agriculture (<https://www.nasda.org/states/state-directory>)
and provide photos or samples only if they are safe to collect.