



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

## PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION Pest Program

# 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 anyone in Washington can 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 [hornets@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hornets@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:

1. obtain materials to build and service traps
2. hang traps
3. register traps on WSDA's online mapping system
4. service traps weekly
5. examine trap collections
6. report any Asian giant hornets

WSDA asks that participants set traps at the beginning of July and keep them up for 22 weeks through November.

The full instructions follow on the next page. Finally, we also have a video on assembling the traps on [WSDA's YouTube channel](#). 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.

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

### MATERIALS

You will need enough materials for 22 weeks of trapping beginning in July and ending in November. WSDA has previously used orange juice and rice cooking wine, but an alternative trap option is available. Below is what you will need for each trap for the season.

#### Bottle Trap

- 2 liter / 64 ounce plastic bottle with lid
- Box cutter
- Strainer
- 5 x 6 x 2 inch storage container for sorting
- String / twine [ 3 feet ]
- Orange juice [ 22 – 4.2 ounce boxes / 11 cups ]  
(100% juice, no pulp, with few additives)
- Rice cooking wine [ 88 ounces / 11 cups ]  
(10 – 25% alcohol content)

#### Alternative Bottle Trap

- 2 liter / 64 ounce plastic bottle with lid
- Box cutter
- Strainer
- 5 x 6 x 2 inch storage container for sorting
- String / twine [ 3 feet ]
- Dark Brown Sugar [ 88 ounces / 11 cups ]
- Water [ 88 ounces / 11 cups ]



## Trap Assembly

### PREPARE THE TRAP OPENING

1. Near the top 1/3 of the bottle draw a horizontal 2 cm (0.78 inch) line on three sides of the bottle. —
2. Place a 2 cm x 2 cm (0.78 in x 0.78 in) “X” across the horizontal lines, meeting in the center. ✕
3. Using the box cutter, very carefully cut along the three “✕” marks, creating tabs.
4. Carefully fold and push the tabs inward on all three sides.







## PREPARE THE BAIT

### Bottle Trap

1. Remove cap
2. Pour 4 ounces (½ cup) of rice cooking wine into the bottle
3. Add 4 ounces (½ cup) of orange juice
4. Replace cap
5. Tie string around the neck of the bottle

### Alternative Bottle Trap

1. Remove cap
2. Pour one cup of dark brown sugar into the bottle
3. Pour one cup of water into the bottle
4. Replace cap
5. Tie string around the neck of the bottle



## Select a Site

If possible look for a tree near a forest edge or path. If you are hanging multiple traps, place 50 feet apart.

**Only place traps on property you have permission to access.**

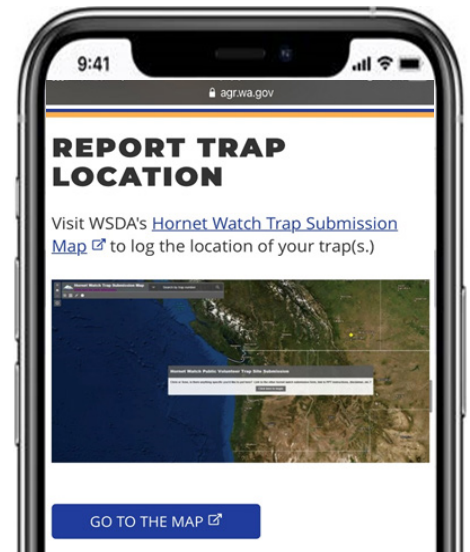
1. Find a sturdy tree branch 6 – 9 feet high.
2. Tie string / twine around the neck of the bottle.
3. Hang the trap off the tree branch so the side without a hole faces the tree.



## Report Trap Location

Go to WSDA's Hornet Watch Trap Submission Map at [agr.wa.gov/hornets](http://agr.wa.gov/hornets) to log the location of your trap(s).

1. Follow the instructions on the map
2. Write the trap number the map provides on your bottle trap
3. Create a new pin for each trap





## Servicing the Traps

### *Applies to both types of traps*

1. Remove the trap each week  
(if using dark brown sugar and water: every other week / every two weeks).
2. Pour the trap contents into a strainer.
3. Rinse the collection with water to clean it.
4. Empty the contents into the storage container.
5. Refill the bottle with the bait mixture.
6. Rehang your bottle trap.

**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.

*Tip:* Pour with the closed side of trap down.



## Sorting Your Collection

You will be examining your collection and examining specimens.

1. Open your storage container.
2. Sort through the insects examining the collection for Asian giant hornet.

### **My trap appears to contain Asian giant hornet.**

1. Snap a photo of your trap collection.
2. Email the photo to [aghtrapping@agr.wa.gov](mailto:aghtrapping@agr.wa.gov) include the trap number and date of your collection.
3. Keep the specimen and wait for further instructions.
4. Discard the remainder of the trap collection.

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### **My trap does not appear to contain Asian giant hornet.**

1. Discard the trap collection



*Tip:* Take a close-up picture viewing the top of the insect, including the head, thorax, and abdomen.



## Stay Connected

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

Email [hornets@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hornets@agr.wa.gov) 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.)