

ASIAN GIANT HORNET

In December 2019, the Washington State Department of Agriculture confirmed four reports of Asian giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) in their state. The Washington state reports were the first confirmed sightings in the United States. Canada also discovered Asian giant hornet at two locations in British Columbia in the fall of 2019.

The Asian giant hornet will attack and destroy honeybee hives. A few hornets can destroy a hive in a few hours. The hornets will decapitate adult honeybees in the hive and take the bee larvae to feed their own young. When provoked, the Asian giant hornets are known to sting humans.

At this time, the Asian giant hornet is not known to occur in Virginia. While the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has received numerous reports of the Asian giant hornet in Virginia, all reported sightings were species that are similar in appearance to the Asian giant hornet, but not the Asian giant hornet.

For more information on the identification of the Asian giant hornet and other species that are similar in appearance to the Asian giant hornet, please visit the Virginia Tech Department of Entomology website at https://www.ento.vt.edu/News/Asian_Giant_Hornet.html

It is unlikely that the Asian giant hornet is now in Virginia. If you suspect that you have found the Asian giant hornet, please contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Agent at <https://ext.vt.edu/offices.html> or contact VDACS at ReportAPest@vdacs.virginia.gov.