

Is it an Asian Giant Hornet?

Identification Guide

There are several bee, wasp and hornet species that call Nevada home. As of July 25, 2020, **the Asian Giant Hornet is not one of them.** The Asian Giant Hornet is native to temperate and tropical climates in Asia and Russia, and its sting and potential for occasionally feeding on honey bee colonies are cause for concern if it establishes in the US. While it is important to notify the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) of potential Asian Giant Hornet sightings, the chances of seeing one are slim. There are several native species of bees and wasps in Nevada similar in size or appearance, but do not pose a threat and are actually beneficial as predators and pollinators. Below is an identification sheet of common bees, wasps and hornets in Nevada to help determine when a species should be reported to the NDA. **Sightings of most bees, wasps and hornets do not need to be reported to the NDA,** however they may be submitted to the State Entomologist for official identification. More information on the submission of insects for identification is available below.

**Please note: If you are stung by any insect, a healthcare professional should be consulted if signs of allergic reactions occur. Do not call NDA.*



Bees

Large bees like bumble and carpenter bees are hairy/fuzzy while wasps are smooth. They range in size and can be solitary or live in colonies.



Cicada Killer Wasp

Cicada killers are yellow and brown with smooth bodies. Adults can be 1 – 1 ¼ inches. They are solitary ground nester, meaning they do not live in colonies.



Photo courtesy of Johnny N Dell, bugwood.org

Bald-faced Hornet

Bald-faced hornets are predominately black with some white markings. Its head can be fuzzy, but its body is smooth. Adults can grow to be 1 inch. They live in colonies in paper nests in trees and can be aggressive if they feel their colony is being threatened.



Sand Wasps

Sand wasps have gray heads and smooth black and white or black and yellow bodies. Adults measure to be around 1 inch. They are solitary ground nesters, meaning they do not live in colonies.

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Scoliid Wasp

Scoliid wasps are yellow and brown or black with smooth bodies. Adults can be 1 inch. They are solitary, meaning they do not live in colonies.



Tarantula Hawk Wasp

Tarantula hawk wasps are solid black with orange wings. They have smooth bodies and adults can be 1 – 1 ½ inches. They are solitary ground nesters, meaning they do not live in colonies. Stings can be painful.



Photo courtesy of Washington State Department of Agriculture



Photo courtesy of Washington State Department of Agriculture

Asian Giant Hornet

Asian giant hornets have smooth yellow-orange heads, black bodies, yellow and black bodies, and grey wings. Adults can be 1 ½ - 2 inches. They live in colonies and can be aggressive if they feel their colony is being threatened. Possible sightings of Asian giant hornets should be reported to NDA State Entomologist Jeff Knight.

Reporting and Identification

The NDA Entomology Lab identifies and tracks invasive insect species in Nevada. Insect identification services are also available to the public with pest concerns or problems.

Photos or samples of insects in question should be sent with an Insect Specimen Submission Form found at agri.nv.gov/entomology.

Contact

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