



Asian Hornet

What can you do?

1

These slides are for use by Associations to raise the profile of the Asian Hornet as an invasive species of concern.

You may wish to add some or all of them to presentations for all members, presentations as part of taster days or presentations for introductory and other training courses.

These slides (September 2023) are designed to promote three immediate actions that beekeepers and members of the public can take:

- Know the features of the Asian Hornet
- Set up bait traps to “test” for the presence of Asian Hornet
- Report the presence of Asian Hornet

These actions can help NBU to track and destroy Asian Hornet nests.

We will update and share new slides as further actions are recommended by NBU.



Asian Hornet (*Vespa Velutina Nigrothorax*)



- Feeds on insects- both native pollinators and honey bees.
- Each Asian hornet can eat 30 - 50 bees a day.
 - “Hawk” outside hives capturing emerging and returning bees.
 - Attack colonies and invade.
- At this time of year Asian hornets can be observed on fruit, ivy and around bait traps.

2

Please use this image to point out the key features of Asian Hornet:
Legs- brown with yellow ends (is often called the yellow legged hornet)
Brown or black velvety thorax
A brown/black abdomen with one yellow stripe on the fourth segment (much less yellow than the native hornet)
This image, owned by David Walker, is used courtesy of NBU.



Make a bait station



Colin Lodge

- Use a plastic box or dish.
- Bait with kitchen paper soaked in Suterra/Trappit (commercially available), sugar sweetened fruit juice or rotting fruit.
- Leave the trap to settle, then observe for 10-30 minutes.
- Report sightings via the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app, ideally with a photo.

3

When you make a bait station, position it away from the apiary. Asian hornets' range is most often measured as under 500m from the nest to bait, so, if spotted, this will give NBU a very good idea about where to find the nest.

After putting out the bait station leave it for a half hour or so, to spread its odour, before observing the bait station. Then observe for 10-30 minutes.



Wick Bait stations



- Wick bait stations, using a jar with a kitchen cloth wick through the lid, can last longer and the bait doesn't evaporate.
- Report sightings via the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app, ideally with a photo.
- Note the direction in which hornets fly off. It can help tracking teams.

4

Instructions for making a wick bait station are here:

https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/PDFs/3_Resources_for_beekeepers/Fact_Sheets/Fact_01_Asian_Hornet_Monitoring.pdf

Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!

Insect	Scientific Name	Approximate Size (cm)
Asian Hornet	<i>Vespa velutina</i>	2.5 - 3.0
European Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>	2.0 - 2.5
Wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	1.5 - 2.0
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	1.0 - 1.5

Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport

Download on the App Store Animal & Plant Health Agency



Key information sources

- BBKA website:
<https://www.bbka.org.uk/listing/category/asian-hornet-vespa-velutina>
- Beebase: <https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/asian-hornet/>
- BBKA learning online:
<https://learning.bbka.org.uk/course/view.php?id=20>