



# Horticultural Inspection Society Central Chapter Newsletter

Volume 50, Issue 1

In the wake of the fall equinox, daylight savings, and collapsing Jack-o-Lanterns, the Horticultural Society's Central Chapter Newsletter bids you a hearty welcome with our

## Late Fall Edition!

To that end, all the staff here (me) at the prestigious HIS Newsletter Offices (my house) have endeavored to put together a newsletter issue to help YOU overcome all of your adverse, seasonally-affected thoughts and to provide you with the necessary distraction, solace, and conversation-igniting sparks to get through the foreshadowing of the dim doldrums of winter and into the promise of a bright new year.

*Tim Boyle - HIS Central Chapter Newsletter Editor, Wisconsin DATCP*



*Check the snowbank and see if the mail's here, would ya?*

"There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know."

*- Donald Rumsfeld*

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### 2022 HIS Central States Chapter Officers & Board

- President: **Fred Meyer**  
Ohio
- Vice President: **Mary Smallsreed**  
Ohio
- Secretary: **Eric Biddinger**  
Indiana
- Treasurer: **Deborah Davis-Hudak**  
Minnesota
- Newsletter: **Tim Boyle**  
Wisconsin



## The Presidents' Messages

### 2021 - Charles Elhard



**Former Central Chapter President, Charles Elhard, North Dakota:**

Greetings HIS members!

Finally! 2020 is behind us, and we are facing a new year.

New challenges may come in 2021, but hopefully nothing like 2020.

Winter finds many of us reviewing new pest research or backburnered reading material that we didn't have time to read during the busy inspection season. If you find something you feel is interesting and relevant to the group, please pass the information along.

We continue to maintain our membership-wide mailing list:

[centralhis@nationalplantboard.org](mailto:centralhis@nationalplantboard.org)

This is a great and easy way to share information and stir up discussion with fellow inspectors.

Our virtual conference sessions in November and December 2020 went very well!

Each session had attendance between 50-70 people. While definitely not a replacement for a face-to-face conference, each speaker presented us with excellent information,

### 2022 - Fred Meyer



**Outgoing Central Chapter President, Fred Meyer, Ohio:**

As outgoing president of the HISCC, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone in our organization.

HIS offers an incredible opportunity to learn, enjoy, and collaborate with counterparts from other states. That collaborative learning experience has made me a better inspector, and the events of the last couple years have turned me into an event planner (not a good one, but an event planner just the same).

That was a big change for an old dirt stompin' inspector like me. But it was worth it to get to know all the incredible people I have met and had the privilege of learning from.

I would like to thank a few people in particular that offered advice, assistance, cheerleading, and just good old friendship.

Eric Biddinger, thank you so much, and congratulations on receiving the McAdams award AND the Carl Carlson award! Deb Davis Hudak, thank you so much for all your help and

### 2023 - Mary Smallsreed



**Incoming Central Chapter President, Mary Smallsreed, Ohio:**

Fred Meyer and I, along with the Ohio staff, would like to thank all of those who travelled to attend the HIS Central Chapter conference in Columbus last month.

From the feedback we have gotten from attendees, everyone enjoyed themselves as our speakers shared informative topics and we showcased Ohio agriculture.

During the business meeting new officers were elected.

Our newly elected officers include Vice-President Zach Starr, Missouri, and Treasurer Elizabeth Meils, Wisconsin.

Eric Biddinger, Indiana, was re-elected as our Chapter Secretary.

Fred Meyer, Ohio, will remain a member of the HIS Central Chapter Executive Committee in the role of Outgoing President.

I would like to express special thanks to Deb Davis-Hudak, Minnesota, our Outgoing Treasurer, who will be working alongside Elizabeth to ensure a smooth transition going into 2023.

## The Presidents' Messages

### 2021 - Charles Elhard

and feedback from the attendees was very positive.

The recorded versions of the virtual conference presentations were posted soon afterwards.

Going forward, with MS Teams capabilities we could potentially host these type of virtual sessions at any time.

If you have a speaker in mind, especially one we that may not normally be able to attend our regional conference, please let one of the board members know.

As we face 2021, we do not know what newly assigned job duties, surveys, inspection challenges, or plant pest emergencies await.

As inspectors, each new challenge is an opportunity to learn and grow in our jobs, and we each have an important job to do.

We protect and educate the public and the industry we work with, along with protecting our natural resources and the environment from plant pests and diseases.

May each of you also take time for yourself, to learn and reflect on the past year. Use the offseason to grow as an inspector and continue to represent and serve the citizens of your state to the best of your ability. To each of you, I wish a healthy, safe, and prosperous 2021.

*Charles Elhard,  
Former Central Chapter President,  
North Dakota Department of  
Agriculture*

### 2022 - Fred Meyer

patience. You were amazing, and congratulations on your McAdams award!!!

Charles Elhard, I always appreciate your words of wisdom and great insight. I stole a lot of ideas from your conference in Fargo to help plan ours.

Susan Ehlenbeck, thank you for being there and doing two presentations at the conference. I can't begin to repay you for all your help.

John Bock...well what can I say? I'm so glad you could make it to Ohio for the conference! I will see you next year in Missouri!!!!???

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all my coworkers who helped make the conference happen. Mary Smallsreed, Missy Bennett, Colette Gabriel... I literally could not have done it without all of you. You were all amazing! And all the rest of my coworkers that helped with the planning, executing, and otherwise tolerating me...thank you. I do appreciate everything.

Also, I cannot begin to tell you what an honor it is to receive the Robert McAdams Award from my peers in HISCC. It is proudly hanging on the wall above my desk as I write this, along with the Carl Carlson award. The recognition from all of you is gratifying, and beyond anything I ever hoped for.

Thank you all for participating in HIS and I hope to see many of you next year in Missouri, if not sooner!

*Fred Meyer,  
Outgoing Central Chapter President,  
Ohio Department of Agriculture*

### 2023 - Mary Smallsreed

Additional special thanks to Charles Elhard, North Dakota, who has been serving on the Executive Committee since being elected Vice-President at the 2018 annual meeting in Michigan. Thank you for your years of service.

So, you might be wondering why the outgoing and incoming presidents are both from Ohio.

The short answer is COVID-19. The 2019 HIS Central Chapter Conference was hosted by North Dakota, and Charles Elhard was the current Vice President.

During the business meeting, Charles was elected President and Fred Meyer Vice President, as Ohio was planning to be the host in 2020.

The pandemic delayed the hosting of a physical conference in Ohio until this year and as a consequence lengthened the terms of our executive team.

John Bock, Michigan, our 2019 Outgoing President was planning his retirement and Charles needed to focus his attention in North Dakota, so in 2021 Fred was appointed President, Charles as outgoing President, and myself as Vice President, with Eric and Deb remaining in their Executive Committee positions for another term.

Thankfully, Ohio was finally able to host a true in-person conference this year, and now we should be back on track.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as you're his Central Chapter President for the coming year.

*Mary Smallsreed,  
Incoming Central Chapter President,  
Ohio Department of Agriculture*

## 2023 HIS Central Chapter Executive Board



### Incoming President

#### Mary Smallsreed

Mary began her career at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in 1989 after graduating from Ohio State University.

She spent her first year working in the Grain Warehouse Division before joining the Plant Pest Control Division. She became a Plant Health Inspector after first working in the Spongy Moth Program.



### Incoming Vice President

#### Zach Starr

Zach has worked as a Plant Protection Specialist with the Missouri Department of Agriculture for the past 9.5 years. He is a SANC certified auditor, often working closely with Forrest Keeling Nursery to maintain their SANC certification.

Zach is the Conference Committee Chair and is looking forward to putting together a great meeting in Missouri for 2023. Please contact him with any suggestions!



### Secretary

#### Eric Biddinger

Eric has been a Nursery Inspector and Compliance Officer with the Indiana DNR Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology for 16 years.

Eric holds Horticulture degrees from Purdue and Penn State. His interests include plant nutrition, soil/root interactions, hydroponics, and using technology to improve work efficiency.



### Incoming Treasurer

#### Liz Meils

Liz has been a Plant Pest & Disease Specialist managing the Nursery, Biotechnology Regulatory Services and Sod Programs for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture since 2006.

Outside of her work, Liz loves hanging out with her husband, their two girls and dog; cooking, playing games, reading, boating and traveling.



### Newsletter Editor

#### Tim Boyle

Tim has served the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture in roles as a Plant Pest & Disease Specialist, Weights & Measures Inspector, and Commodities Inspector since starting as an LTE with the department in 2010.

Tim's interests include ecological interactions, parasitism and evolution, photography, electronics, arts, crafts, music and bicycling.

# HIS Central Chapter News

## HIS Central Chapter Membership Renewals & Dues

HIS Central Chapter dues will resume for new and renewing members at the rate of \$20 per year. **Membership forms must be postmarked by December 10th, 2022** for membership in 2023.

In what may have qualified as a tiny silver lining inside an otherwise dark cloud of coronavirus disruption and confusion, the HIS Central Chapter found itself with a budget surplus after the Virtual Conference in 2020 and voted unanimously to suspend dues for the remainder of 2020 and for the entire 2021 year.

Finding ourselves without the the usual costs of holding both the physical annual conference and interstate group inspection events in 2020, it was decided that the 'extra money' would be best used to spare the current membership of another expense during difficult times, and a free membership is also a great opportunity to introduce more coworkers, LTE's, and members of other agencies to the resources of being a member of the HIS.

**If you are a new member or have not yet renewed your membership, please do so!**

**The membership form is attached as a separate PDF file to this newsletter email for easy printing.**

**Mail completed forms with payment to our current Treasurer, Deb Davis-Hudak, postmarked no later than December 10th, 2022.**

**The instructions and mailing address are on the form.**

Also, take a moment and consider the diverse group of people that you work with - people that you go to for answers to the really unusual, interesting, and often difficult questions that come up about topics like horticulture, compliance issues, invasive species, plant pathology, beekeeping, and entomology, just to name a few. These are the folks that would benefit most from an HIS membership, and also those *that would be a valuable resource to the HIS as well*. Please ask if they would consider joining the HIS membership to meet their peers in the Central States and see what our group is all about.

In the upcoming year we expect to share news and discuss emerging regional information among our chapter states via email newsfeeds, virtual chats and through our newsletter. We also plan to offer some interesting presentations, Q & A sessions and training opportunities through several virtual chats during the year - at no additional charge beyond our membership fee.



## ROBERT Mc ADAMS AWARD WINNERS

Carl E. Carson Award Winners **(In Bold)**

- 2022 Deborah Davis-Hudak (MN)
- 2021 Eric Biddinger (IN)**
- 2020 David Simmons (MN)
- 2019 Fred Meyer (OH)**
- 2018 Ken Cote (IN)
- 2017 Kathleen Pratt (NE)
- 2016 Charles Elhard (ND) and Paul Anderson (SD)
- 2015 Konnie Jerabek (WI)**
- 2014 Julia Thompson (MO)
- 2013 Ryan Krull (IA)
- 2012 John Bock (MI)**
- 2011 Bob Buhler (KS)
- 2010 Todd Voss (IA)
- 2009 Barry Menser (MI)**
- 2008 Susan Ehlenbeck (MO)**
- 2007 Stephen White (KS)
- 2006 Dave Johnson (MO)**
- 2005 Steven Shimek (MN)
- 2004 Lee Burgess (MO)**
- 2003 Bill McAdams (IA)
- 2002 Vicki Wohlers (NE)
- 2001 Bill Hilbert (KS)**
- 2000 Bruce Cummins (IN)
- 1999 Larry Hanning (MO)**



# BACK IN PERSON IN OHIO!

## 2022 HIS Central Chapter Conference is a Welcome Gathering



Thank you to Ohio for hosting a wonderful 2022 HIS Fall Conference!

Hopefully you were lucky enough to be one of the 46 folks in attendance at this year's Central Chapter HIS Fall Conference held October 17-20, 2022 in downtown Columbus, Ohio.

The Horticultural Inspection Society (HIS) was founded in Mansfield, Ohio in 1970, and the Ohio Chapter had originally planned to host this meeting in 2020 as a 50<sup>th</sup> HIS anniversary celebration. After two years of virtual meetings due to the pandemic, in 2022 we were finally able to celebrate the 52<sup>nd</sup> HIS anniversary in person! There were a total of seventeen informative presentations spanning many topics, as well as state reports from nine of our twelve member states.

Conference highlights included learning about Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) eradication efforts in Ohio, which have been ongoing since 2011, the 2022 box tree moth survey and trapping efforts in New York, and a presentation detailing the multi-year process to identify and name the nematode associated with beech leaf diseases (BLD). Participants also heard from industry representatives from Saunders Genetics in Virginia about ongoing boxwood breeding and trials.

Inspectors not intimately familiar with SANC (Systems Approach to Nursery Certification) gained practical knowledge about how inspecting a nursery through a SANC lens can provide an entirely new perspective on plant health risks and how they can be mitigated.

Other notable highlights included learning about the fifty year history of the HIS and the importance and value of our organization. We were also treated to presentations from the always entertaining Jim Chatfield and Joe Boggs from OSU.

The afternoon of day two featured a tour of OSU's newly built Waterman Agricultural & Natural Resources Laboratory, and a fun



Waterman Agricultural & Natural Resources Laboratory

## More Ohio Conference...



activity searching the classroom facilities and surrounding outdoor area for spotted lanternfly (SLF) egg masses that had been created with a 3-D printer.

We also toured and learned about the research and community development projects going on at their new Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex (CEARC), which included hydroponics, paw-paw research, hybridization of native aesculus, onsite pumpkins for children and other urban youth agriculture projects, and a Garden of Hope, providing plant-based food for cancer patients and cancer survivors.



OSU's 3-D printed SLF eggmasses



And there were goodies!

Treats of popcorn, maple syrup, honey, and of course Fred would not approve of anyone leaving without a handmade buckeye keychain.

In addition, the swag bag included many informative publications on Ohio grapes, Asian longhorned beetle, spotted lanternfly, stink bugs, bees, plum pox, along with pest alert bulletins of many flavors.



These are only a few of the manifold highlights. There were many opportunities for networking within the group and so much more knowledge exchanged over meals and breaks that couldn't be captured here.

The whole experience proved that any HIS meeting is not to be missed, and this was no exception.

A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to the Ohio staff for organizing and hosting a wonderful and very educational conference!

Conference attendees: Please take a moment to complete our brief [post-conference online survey](#)

## Minnesota Hosts Popular Central Chapter Multi-State Inspection Event in 2022



### 2022 HIS Central Chapter Multi-State Nursery Inspection & Field Training - August 15-17, Minneapolis & St. Paul, MN *Notes from Konnie Jerabek, Wisconsin DATCP*

Minnesota reported an impressive turnout for their HIS Multi-State Inspection Event in August 2022, with 27 Central Chapter inspectors attending the two-day event which took place at several locations around the Twin Cities metro area.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture plant pathologist Michelle Graboski was on hand for both days of inspections, providing interesting diagnostic tips and gems of specific disease diagnostic information.

At the Bachman's site, she pointed out symptoms of Japanese Apple Rust found on two crabapple varieties, and noted that the larger orange rust spots of Japanese Apple Rust show as more of a red color than those of Cedar Apple Rust, and that the rust spores found on the undersides of the leaves are also shaped differently.

It is thought that Chinese Juniper is the alternate host plant for Japanese Apple Rust, and that it may become more common as it is moved into new areas where both apples and Chinese junipers are present.

Bachman's operates many retail garden centers around the Twin Cities area. Wholesale production originates from one 600 acre location, providing mostly field-grown nursery stock, with them digging and holding most of their trees and evergreens as B & B stock.

Tuesday we toured the Bailey Nurseries container and propagation fields, inspecting in smaller groups. Jean Marc, Baily's Midwest Plant Health field manager, spoke about the growing practices used at Baileys. During potting, a detailed sticker is attached to each plant container which shows all the information for that plant. Liner plants potted in the spring of the season will be removed from their pots and root pruned in the fall. If any of those same plants are still onsite by November of the following season, they are culled, piled and burned. Propagation is being done in large num-



Japanese Apple Rust, leaf top



Japanese Apple Rust, leaf underside



## Minnesota Hosts Popular Central Chapter Multi-State Inspection Event in 2022

bers, so they are moving a lot of plants despite also disposing of a large amount each year. They always want to have a fresh looking product.

Bailey Nurseries creates their own container media using Minnesota-sourced products composed of 40% wood fibers, 50% peat moss, along with stable pine bark and composted Sudan grass. This Sudan grass is a leftover resource; it is initially grown onsite, cut long, and used to cover and insulate their containers during the winter. Just before winter, their container stock is laid down, covered with white plastic, then covered with the long Sudan grass and more plastic. Rodent bait is used underneath. In the spring, the Sudan grass insulation is then composted to become a component for their media mixture. Nitrogen will be added to compensate for wood fiber breaking down in the pots and using up nitrogen meant for the plants. The wood chips raise the media's pH, so aluminum sulfate is also top-dressed in.

Baileys sprays 1.5 PPM copper-injected irrigation water daily in their greenhouse propagation sites to keep fungal diseases down. They propagate 80% of their plant needs, using sand beds fumigated with steam heat.

They leach pots twice during the first week after planting to get their media fully saturated and salts moving through the pots. They add a granular herbicide twice per season, first after planting and again during the late summer.

Bailey Nurseries Minnesota facility accommodates 200 acres of bare-root production and 300 acres of container production. They also operate another 5000 - 6000 acres of growing fields in Oregon and Washington, and do rose production in Georgia. All of their growing fields are separated from each other, so the logistics of moving equipment and personnel is considerable. They use helicopters to treat fields for Japanese beetle, flea beetle, leaf hoppers, aphids and spider mites.

### Minnesota Specially Regulated Plants and Noxious Weed Regulations

Note that Minnesota lists several ornamental plants on their Noxious Weeds list in different categories, many with no exceptions for cultivars. "Specially Regulated" plants include *Euomyzus alatus* (Winged Burning Bush) along with all of its cultivars.

Amur and Norway Maple and their cultivars require specific labeling reading, "Sellers shall affix a label directly to the plant or container packaging that is being sold that advises buyers to only plant Amur maple and its cultivars in landscapes where the seedlings will be controlled by mowing or other means. Amur maple seed is wind dispersed and trees should be planted at least 100 yards from natural areas." Norway Maple offered for sale also requires a label with this wording.

The Minnesota Restricted Noxious Weeds List includes *Caragana arborescens* (Siberian Peashrub) with one exemption; 'Green Spires' Caragana. These additional requirements are different than Wisconsin's NR 40 Restricted plants list.

Other states having nursery growers /dealers planning to ship nursery stock into Minnesota should check the [National Plant Board website](#) for Minnesota's updated invasive and noxious weed law changes before shipment.

Some plant species that were added to Minnesota's Noxious Weed Law in 2020 included a three-year phase out which will end in 2023. See: [Minnesota Noxious Weed List | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Also, note a news article confirming Japanese Apple Rust found in MN:

[New Fungal Pathogen of Apple Trees Discovered in Minnesota | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Overall, it was a very good meeting, especially the networking opportunities. Tuesday evening, inspectors shared many photos and conversations about pest and disease findings in the Central Chapter states, and had great discussions about their inspection methods and use of emerging technologies in their work.

Many thanks to the Minnesota HIS folks for hosting a very educational and enjoyable event! - *Konnie Jerabek*

## HIS Award Winners Announced

**HIS Central Chapter Membership Elects Eric Biddinger McAdams Award Recipient for 2021, Is Further Honored with 2022 National Plant Board's Carl Carlson Award**



Eric Biddinger (IN) receives the Robert McAdams Award Plaque from HIS Central Chapter President Fred Meyer at the 2022 Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

“As the recipient of the 2021 Robert McAdams Award, I would like to say, thank you.

I was surprised by my nomination, humbled when I won, and totally astonished when I was further honored with the NPB's 2022 Carl Carlson Award.

Isaac Newton wrote, “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

I feel blessed to be surrounded by giants, all of my coworkers, SPROs, HIS members, University faculty, and industry folks - all who have given freely of their time and knowledge to advance this often crazy thing we call our profession.

And it is also my honor to salute and pass the award along to one of those giants, Deborah Davis-Hudak, the 2022 McAdams awardee, for her honorable service to the people of Minnesota and the members of the Horticultural Inspection Society. Congratulations, my friend! “

- Eric Biddinger

“I would like to join with our Executive Committee in congratulating Deb on being selected as the 2022 McAdams award recipient. Deb, it is so well deserved, thank you for all your years of service to our HIS Central Chapter as Treasurer, member, and all around great person.”

- Fred Meyer

## Meet Our New Webmaster!



Diane Turner has graciously volunteered to assist with our upcoming HISCC website revamp and to take over webmaster duties from longtime our web stylist, Todd Voss (IA). Diane joined the Indiana Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology as a Nursery Inspector and Compliance Officer in August 2022 after many years as an educator at NC Cooperative Extension and Purdue Extension. She previously coordinated the social media and outreach program at the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, and is looking forward to working with the HIS Central Chapter as webmaster. Welcome, Diane!

# Northern Giant Hornets

*News about the Northern giant hornet (formerly known as the Asian Giant Hornet), reprinted from the original sources.*

Washington State University - WSU Insider: April 6, 2020

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

## WSU scientists enlist citizens in hunt for giant, bee-killing hornet

By Seth Truscott, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences

PULLMAN, Wash. – More than two inches long, the world’s largest hornet carries a painful, sometimes lethal sting and an appetite for honey bees. It is also the newest insect invader of Washington state.

The Northern giant hornet, *Vespa mandarinia*, is unmistakable, said Susan Cobey, bee breeder with Washington State University’s Department of Entomology.

“They’re like something out of a monster cartoon with this huge yellow-orange face,” she said.

“It’s a shockingly large hornet,” added Todd Murray, WSU Extension entomologist and invasive species specialist. “It’s a health hazard, and more importantly, a significant predator of honey bees.”

Cobey, Murray and other WSU scientists are bracing for the giant hornet’s emergence this spring. Sighted for the first time in Washington last December, the hornet will start to become active in April. WSU researchers are working with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), beekeepers and citizens to find it, study it and help roll back its spread.

### Voracious predator

In the first-ever sightings in the U.S., WSDA verified two reports of the Northern giant hornet late last year near Blaine, Wash. and received two probable, but unconfirmed reports, from sites in Custer, Wash.

It is not known how or where the hornet first arrived in North America. Insects are frequently transported in international cargo and are sometimes transported deliberately.


At home in the forests and low mountains of eastern and southeast Asia, the hornet feeds on large insects, including native wasps and bees. In Japan, it devastates the European honey bee, which has no effective defense.

The Northern giant hornet’s life cycle begins in April, when queens emerge from hibernation, feed on plant sap and fruit, and look for an underground dens to build their nests. Once established, colonies grow and send out workers to find food and prey.



 The Asian giant hornet, the world's largest species of hornet, was found late last year in northwest Washington. (Photo courtesy WSDA).



 *Asian giant hornets are usually about 1.5 to 2 inches in length, with an orange-yellow head and striped abdomen (Photo courtesy WSDA).*

Hornets are most destructive in the late summer and early fall, when they are on the hunt for sources of protein to raise next year's queens. *V. mandarinia* attack honey bee hives, killing adult bees and devouring bee larvae and pupae, while aggressively defending the occupied colony. Their stings are big and painful, with a potent neurotoxin. Multiple stings can kill humans, even if they are not allergic.

### **Forever changes**

Growers depend on honey bees to pollinate many important northwest crops like apples, blueberries and cherries.

With the threat from hornets, "beekeepers may be reluctant to bring their hives here," said Island County Extension scientist Tim Lawrence.

"As a new species entering our state, this is the first drop in the bucket," said Murray. Once established, invasive species like the spotted wing drosophila fruit fly or the zebra mussel make "forever changes" to local crops and ecologies.

"Just like that, it's forever different," Murray said. "We need to teach people how to recognize and identify this hornet while populations are small, so that we can eradicate it while we still have a chance."

Beekeepers, WSU Master Gardener volunteers and other Extension clients are often the first detectors of invasive species. WSU scientists are now spreading awareness of the hornet to citizens and developing a fact sheet to help people identify and safely encounter the insects.

As partners with the Washington Invasive Species Council, they also urge citizens to download the WA Invasives smartphone app for quick reporting of sightings.

"We need to get the word out," said Lawrence. "We need to get a clear image of what's happening out there, and have people report it as soon as possible."

### **Early detection, faster eradication**

Scientists with the WSDA Pest Program are taking the lead on finding, trapping and eradicating the pest. WSDA will begin trapping for queens this spring, with a focus on Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, and Island counties.


"Our focus is on detection and eradication," said WSDA entomologist Chris Looney.

The agency plans to collaborate with local beekeepers and WSU Extension scientists and entomologists with WSU focusing its efforts on management advice for beekeepers.

Regular beekeeping suits are poor protection against this hornet's sting, said Looney. WSDA ordered special reinforced suits from China.

"Don't try to take them out yourself if you see them," he said. "If you get into them, run away, then call us! It is really important for us to know of every sighting, if we're going to have any hope of eradication."



 *A close-up of an Asian giant hornet's stinger. The hornet can sting through most beekeeper suits, can deliver nearly seven times the amount of venom as a honey bee, and can sting multiple times (Photo courtesy WSDA).*

To report an Northern Giant Hornet sighting, contact the Washington State Department of Agriculture Pest Program at 1-800-443-6684, [pestprogram@agr.wa.gov](mailto:pestprogram@agr.wa.gov) or online at [agr.wa.gov/hornets](http://agr.wa.gov/hornets).

For questions about protecting honey bees from hornets, contact WSU Extension scientist Tim Lawrence at (360) 639-6061 or [timothy.lawrence@wsu.edu](mailto:timothy.lawrence@wsu.edu).

### Media contacts:

Tim Lawrence, WSU Island County Extension Director, 360-639-6061, [timothy.lawrence@wsu.edu](mailto:timothy.lawrence@wsu.edu)  
Seth Truscott, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, [struscott@wsu.edu](mailto:struscott@wsu.edu)

**A GIANT**  
problem for bees

Washington State University scientists are helping spread the word about the impact of the Asian giant hornet. Citizens can help by downloading the Washington Invasives App and reporting sightings. Suspected sightings of this invasive species should be reported to the WSDA Pest Program Hotline at 1-800-443-6684, or online at [agr.wa.gov/hornets](http://agr.wa.gov/hornets)

The Asian giant hornet is Washington's newest insect invader. Sighted in the Pacific Northwest last year, the hornet is a voracious predator of honey bees and other insects, and threatens valuable pollinators.

Adults are 1.5-2 inches long, with a large yellow or orange head and a black-and yellow-striped abdomen.

Attacking hives, a single hornet can kill dozens of honey bees in minutes. A group of 30 hornets can destroy an entire hive of 30,000 bees in less than four hours.

There have been two confirmed specimens in fall 2019, and four unconfirmed reports in Washington since the initial detection.

Hornets attack bee hives in the late summer and early fall to feed their young queens. They defend occupied hives and can sting through beekeeper suits.

Giant hornets have nearly seven times the amount of venom as a honey bee. Multiple stings can kill.

The venom of Northern giant hornets is actually less toxic than that of other wasp species, but they can inject more per sting due to their size. Their stinger is long enough to puncture thicker protective clothing, such as the suits normally worn by beekeepers.

Hornets can also sting multiple times, will defend their nests and can attack as a group, but generally are not aggressive unless provoked. The most deadly wasp venom has a lethal dose in 50% of cases rated at 3.5 mg/lb. This means that for an average, 175 lb. human, a dose of 104 mg of this venom would result in a 50% chance of death.

The Northern giant hornet would need to inject a 175 lb. human with 260 mg of its venom for the same result.

Their venom in general shouldn't be a serious problem for most people, but it is more dangerous to children, anyone allergic to it, those with pre-existing health conditions, or people in a situation to be stung multiple times or by multiple insects.



## Washington State recorded no sightings so far this year

- *Newsweek*, by Robyn White, 10/17/22

The species were first detected in Blaine, Washington in December 2019, according to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, (WSDA), as well as in British Columbia.

The WSDA recorded new sightings of the insect over the next two years. But this year in Washington, there have been none. Nearly 1,400 giant hornet traps were set up over the summer (some from the WSDA, some volunteer) that yielded no captures.

There have also been no sightings in states that previously recorded the insect, like Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. While unconfirmed, this could mean that the species has been eradicated from the U.S.

"We haven't yet detected any hornets in our state this year. We don't know yet if they've disappeared, however that is our goal, as we continue to monitor and eradicate when we find the nests," Amber Betts, a spokesperson for WSDA told *Newsweek*.

"We will continue to monitor, trap, and utilize the help of our area citizen scientists. The year isn't over, and we will continue to trap these species into November."



The Washington State Department of Agriculture tied a USDA-supplied radio tag onto this captured Asian giant hornet. It is eating jam for energy before flying back to its nest. Photo by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

WSDA spokesperson Karla Salp told *Newsweek* that the department has to have three years of negative detections before they can officially declare them eradicated.

"Precisely what damage they would do to the ecosystem is not yet known. The biggest concern, of course, is their potential to negatively impact honeybee populations, which is of concern for food production. We have done some testing on fecal pellets in nests to determine what they have been feeding on here in Washington," Salp said.

Scientists are not sure how the species entered the country, though some suspect they may have come from an illegal importation.

## The End of the Row

### HIS Central Chapter

The Horticultural Inspection Society was founded in 1970 through the collaboration of state inspectors and with the support of the nation's Central Plant Board.

Their goal was to establish an organization to maintain the shared ethics its member inspectors with the goals of:

- Promoting high standards of plant inspection work
- Providing a means of furthering acquaintanceship among plant pest control inspectors and allied workers
- Providing cooperative effort and cooperation with efforts of others toward stimulating interest in professionalizing plant inspection work
- Providing a means of disseminating information that is particularly pertinent to their work

The first regional group was designated as the Central Chapter, representing our twelve central member states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

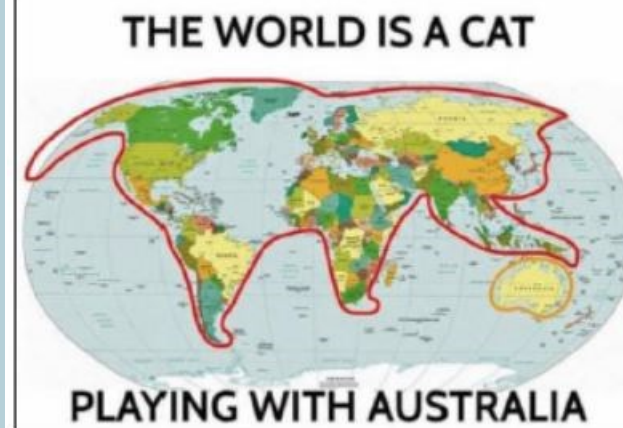
The Eastern Chapter was organized in 1974 and the Southern and Western Chapters in 1999.

Each Chapter works closely with their respective regional plant boards to stay abreast of changing compliance protocols and industry trends, share professional knowledge and techniques, provide training and instruction opportunities, and help maintain uniform and consistent investigative and compliance practices throughout the horticulture industry.

**Our Inspector's Forte:**  
*"Make Professionalism a Part of Every Effort."*



Cat Earth Theory

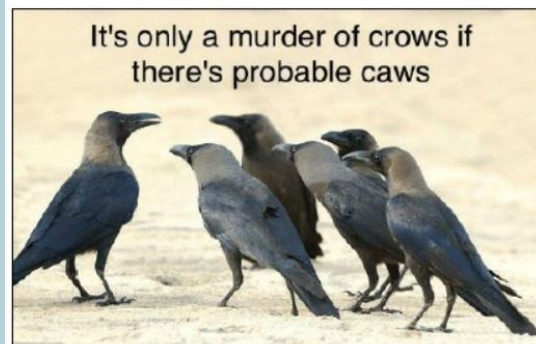


Last night I dreamt I was a muffler.

I woke up *exhausted*.



I got a job at a paperless office. Everything was great until I needed to use the bathroom.



I poured root beer in a square glass. Now I just have beer.

My friend says to me, "What rhymes with orange?"  
I responded with, : "No, it doesn't".

