Asian Giant Hornet (Vespa mandarinia)

The Asian Giant Hornet is a new introduction to the United States, first noticed in December 2019 in Blane, WA. At this point, there is no evidence of an established population anywhere else in the United States. More research is needed to determine if these insects can survive in Rhode Island’s climate, and there is little risk of them being present here in 2020. These hornets are large, with a body that measures 1.5 to 2 inches. While they do have a powerful sting and people with an allergy to bee or wasp stings should take caution, they are no more aggressive than our native wasps.

Common lookalikes of Rhode Island

Asian Giant Hornet has not been found in Rhode Island

For more information on the Asian Giant Hornet / and additional details on look-alike insects, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/agh

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In Rhode Island, there are several native wasps and hornets that can resemble the Giant Asian Hornet but are not a threat to wildlife or our ecosystem. In fact, many of these native species are considered beneficial. The two most mistaken insects in our environment are the Eastern Cicada Killer (Sphecius speciosus) and the European Hornet (Vespa crabro). Both are pictured above.

If you suspect you have found an invasive pest, please report it to us at dem.ri.gov/pestalert