

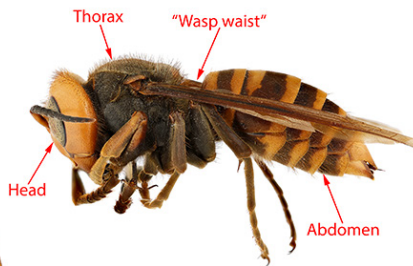


ASIAN GIANT HORNETS

Vespa mandarinia

The Asian giant hornet is the world's largest hornet. Sometimes, these hornets are referred to as the "murder hornet" because they attack honeybees. There have been no confirmed reportings of these hornets in Oklahoma, but there are multiple harmless and beneficial wasps and hornets catching the attention of people across the state. Let's look closer at how we can tell them apart!

Asian Giant Hornets vs. Cicada Killer Wasps



Asian Giant Hornet



Western cicada killer



Eastern cicada killer

Body length

- From 1.5 to 2 inches long

Coloration

- **Head:** Large and solid yellow or orange, with black eyes
- **Eyes:** the eye in hornets hooks around the top of the antennae
- **Thorax:** Mostly solid dark brown or black, making a striking contrast with the head color
- **Abdomen:** Alternating bands of dark brown or black and yellow or orange

Body length

- Can be up to 2 inches long

Coloration

- **Head:** Cicada killers have a smaller head in proportion to their bodies
- **Eyes:** Oval eyes
- **Abdomen:** "Broken", non-continual banding on the abdomen
- **Thorax:** Has a reddish thorax
- The contrast between the head color and the thorax color is much more apparent in AGH than in cicada killers

What are Cicada Killers?

As the name implies, Western and Eastern cicada killer wasps target cicadas and other large insects. After paralyzing insects with a sting, they drag the prey into their in-ground burrow for their offspring to feed on. Their burrows are found in a variety of urban soil settings including flower beds, backyards and even golf greens -- they nest in the ground where there is loose soil, typically close to trees where cicadas live. One burrow can be several inches deep, and multiple feet wide, and can be called home for two or three wasps at once.

They are non-aggressive and are not likely to sting, unless given no other option to defend themselves. Males are territorial and will dive-bomb if provoked, but cannot sting. Although they look scary, they serve an important role in nature.



If you have Cicada Killers in your yard, we suggest you correcting the poor soil conditions and the following year, they will find a new location to dig. If they are a problem, contact a qualified pest removal company.



Cicada Killer



Asian Giant Hornet

How to Report an AGH in Oklahoma:

There have been no Asian Giant Hornets confirmed in Oklahoma. If you have questions about invasive insects or state quarantines, contact our Consumer Protection Services division by sending an email to joe.rackley@ag.ok.gov.

Your local OSU County Extension office can assist with insect identification, or you can email photos, your name and your location to gotbugs@okstate.edu.

If it is safe to do so, take a photo or collect a dead specimen to help experts identify the insect.

