



Information on Asian hornet traps

Why are we trapping Asian hornets?

This is part of a strategic approach to prevent Asian hornets from becoming established in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Since they were first recorded here in 2017 we have been working hard to keep their numbers as low as possible. This is achieved by catching queen hornets in the spring before they begin nest building and then locating and destroying any nests that we discover later in the summer/autumn. If their numbers are not controlled, the numbers will rapidly increase and they will become a serious threat to our native pollinating insects and present a risk to public health.

What do the traps look like?

The traps are made of transparent yellow plastic with a black lid, about the size of a large tumbler glass. They have a black cover to keep the rain out and a red identification label indicating the precise the location on a grid map of the island.



When is trapping carried out?

The most likely time to catch a queen hornet is in the spring after they emerge from hibernation or arrive on our islands after flying over from France. To coincide with this we set traps across the island from early April until the end of May.

Why not set traps for Asian hornets throughout the summer?

As part of their Asian Hornet Strategy, (2019-21) the States of Guernsey are trialling a 'Spring queening' programme across all islands in the Bailiwick to see how successful it is to trap queen hornets in the spring – the results of this so far look promising.

During the rest of the year members of the public are strongly discouraged from setting up baited traps for Asian hornets for the following reasons:

- Trapping only works when targeting the queen hornets before they create their large secondary nests. Once she has made this nest she will not emerge again. Trapping in gardens past this point (July) will have no impact on Asian hornet populations as the worker Asian hornets (whose average lifespan is only 30 days) are constantly renewed within a colony, and a large nest can produce more than 10,000 individuals during the season. It is therefore much more important to track the individual worker hornets and locate their nest, rather than trap them.
- A 100% selective trap or bait doesn't currently exist, meaning the trap will also indiscriminately catch native species, such as butterflies and other beneficial pollinating insects. Therefore, continual trapping can have a significant impact on local biodiversity. Many studies show that when trapping is uncontrolled or undertaken during the summer, Asian hornets account for only a small percentage of catches.

What about beekeepers, what can they do?

It is recognised in the Strategy that beekeepers will want to use traps for the protection of their apiaries, as Asian hornets will find honeybees in hives an easy target.

In this case, the trap is a tool to protect the hive and not a means of control as such. These traps will need to be carefully controlled and monitored to prevent impacting native species.

If you are a beekeeper and would like to trap next to your hive, please contact us for more information about how to keep our native pollinators safe.

How can I help?

If you should come across one of our traps, please do not touch or remove it. All of our traps are regularly monitored by trained volunteers.

From June-October, hornets are actively hunting insects in gardens, fields and hedgerows. They may also visit flowers for nectar or occasionally come to a pond to collect water when it is really hot. In 2019 we had reports of Asian hornets being attracted to BBQ's, hovering around fresh meat and glasses of wine and beer.

If you do spot one it is really important to take a picture (if possible) and observe the direction it flies so that we can track where the hornet's nest is.

You should then submit your finding by contacting the Asian Hornet Team on asianhornet@gov.gg or call 07839 197082.

There is lots of helpful information on Asian hornets, what they look like and what the Asian Hornet Team is doing to control this invasive species on our [dedicated webpage](#).

Please also check the [Asian Hornet Team - Guernsey Facebook page](#) for regular updates.

A graphic with a green background. On the left is a branch with green leaves. In the center, the text 'SPRING QUEENING' is written in large, bold letters, with 'SPRING' in black and 'QUEENING' in green. Below this text is the sentence 'Find out more about why we're trapping queen Asian hornets right across Guernsey this spring'. On the right is an illustration of a black and yellow trap with a yellow funnel, and a queen Asian hornet is shown flying towards it. At the bottom, there is a dark green bar with white text for contact information.

**SPRING
QUEENING**

Find out more about why we're trapping queen Asian hornets right across Guernsey this spring

Email - asianhornet@gov.gg Website - gov.gg/asianhornet Phone - 07839 197082