

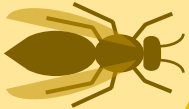
15 Bees and Wasps You Can See in Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden

Most bees and wasps in Shinjuku Gyoen are gentle and help support nature by pollinating flowers and eating insects. If you see a potentially dangerous wasp, please keep a safe distance.

 ...Dangerous Wasps

Q ...Queen Wasp

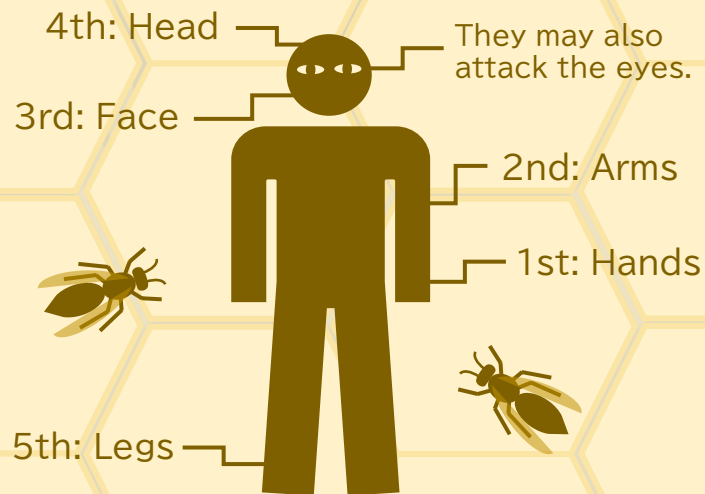
W ...Worker Wasp

Northern giant hornet   The largest hornet species. Q...37~45mm W...27~38mm 	Japanese yellow hornet   It is mostly yellow overall. Q...25~28mm W...17~24mm 	European hornet   It is active at night as well. Q...25~28mm W...19~24mm  The abdominal bands are wavy.	Japanese brown hornet   It takes over the nests of other hornets. Q...27~29mm W...17~21mm  It is brownish overall.	Japanese black hornet   Small, but lives in large colonies. Q...15~17mm W...10~12mm  Black body with white abdominal bands.	Dark-black long legged wasp   The largest paper wasp species. W...20~26mm 	Two-spotted longlegged wasp  A gentle beneficial insect that eats crop pests. W...14~16mm  Two round markings on the abdomen.	
Chimney wasp  Builds nests with chimney-like entrances. 16~20mm  Black body with two orange abdominal bands.	Japanese honeybee  It helps pollinate flowers. Q...17~19mm W...12~13mm  Its body is blackish.	Western honeybee  Brought from Europe for honey production. Q...17~20mm W...12~13mm  Its body is yellowish.	Japanese carpenter bee  Large body but gentle. 約23mm  Fluffy yellow hairs on the thorax.	Asian black bumblebee  Builds nests in mole burrows and other holes. Q...19~23mm W...12~19mm  A fluffy body covered with hairs.	Japanese longhorned flower bee  Named after the male's long antennae. 12~14mm  Females have short antennae.	Golden-bellied longhorned wasp  Lays eggs on scarab beetle larvae. 16~27mm  It has a long abdomen.	Black digger wasp  Captures crickets and other insects and lays eggs on them. 22~30mm  Its body is black with white hairs.

Things to keep in mind to avoid wasp stings!

Wasps may attack if you get too close to their nests or disturb them. Please be careful while enjoying your walk.

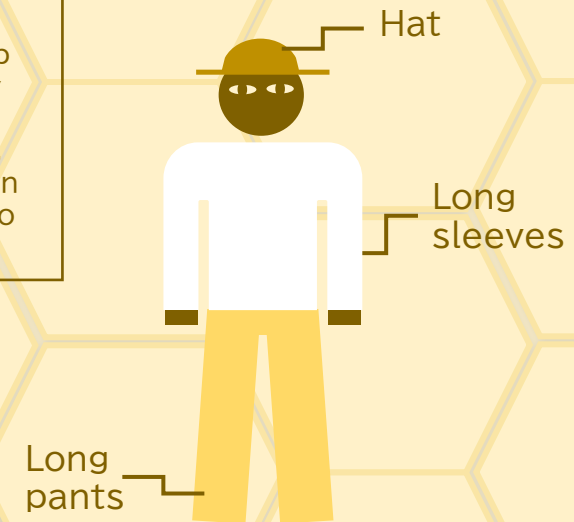
Body parts most likely to be stung by wasps



Wasps may become aggressive if you approach their nests or wave your hands at them. Black objects, furry materials, fluttering items, and strong scents such as hair products may also provoke wasps.

At Shinjuku Gyoen, we work to ensure visitor safety by taking measures to prevent hornet incidents, such as setting up traps and removing nests.

To avoid wasp stings



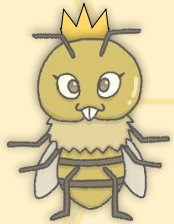
Wasps are often attracted to tree sap and ripe fruits. They may enter juice containers, clothing, shoes that have been taken off, or bags, so please be careful.

Wasps have difficulty detecting slow movements or still objects. If you see a wasp, calmly move away. Bright colors such as white and yellow are harder for wasps to recognize, so wearing these colors may help reduce the risk of stings.

Discover the Secrets of the Japanese Honeybee!

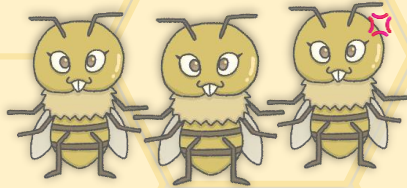
Life in a Honeybee Colony

Bees are "social insects" that live together in colonies, with each bee playing a different role.



Queen bee

Mates with drones from other colonies and lays many eggs.



Worker bee (all female)

Cares for the larvae, collects food, and defends the colony from predators.



Drone (male)

Mates with the queen and is fed by worker bees..

Moving to a New Home

When the hive becomes overcrowded, the old queen leaves with about half of the worker bees to find a new home. This is called "swarming." Before leaving, the bees form a cluster while scout bees search for a new nesting site. Once a suitable home is found, the entire swarm flies there together. The worker bees fill up on honey before departure, storing enough energy for the journey.



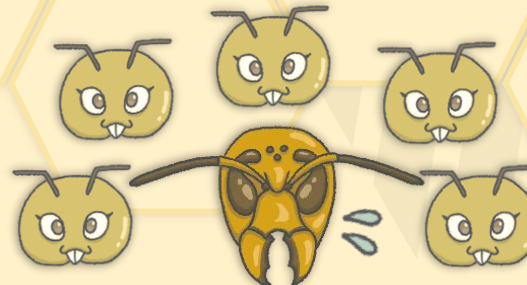
Photo: Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, 2026

Amazing Communication Skills and Teamwork

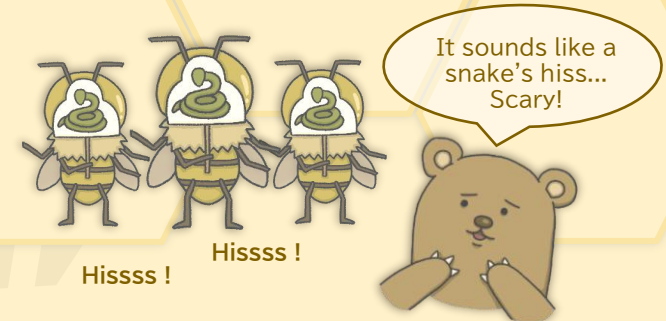
When a worker bee finds nectar or pollen, it returns to the hive and walks in a figure-eight pattern to tell the other bees where to find it. The pattern shows the direction and distance of the food.



When a hornet attacks the hive, Japanese honeybees surround it and vibrate their bodies to raise the temperature to about 46°C, killing the attacker. This defense is called a "heat ball."



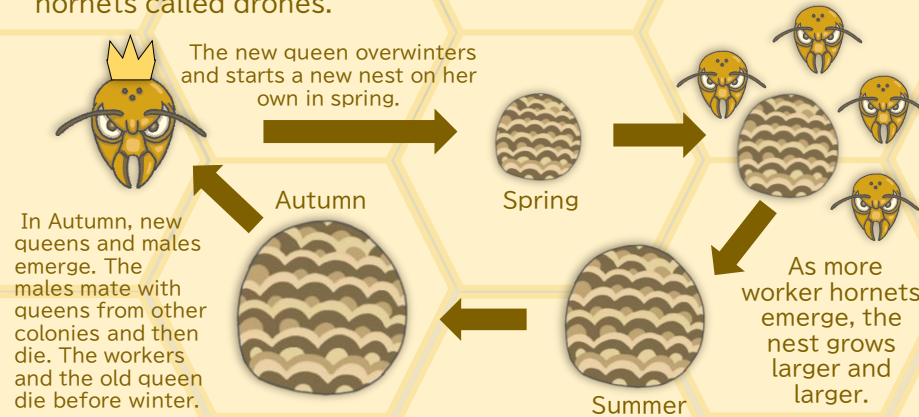
Japanese honeybees work together to defend their hive. When danger approaches, they vibrate their bodies and wings to warn or drive predators away.



Discover the Secrets of the Northern giant hornet!

Hornet Life Cycle

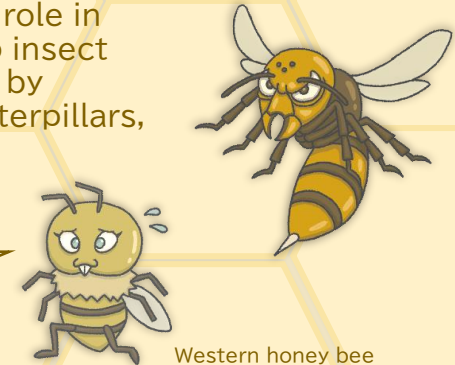
Northern giant hornets are social insects that live in colonies. Each colony has one queen, many worker hornets, and male hornets called drones.



Dangerous but Necessary?

Many people think of Northern giant hornets as dangerous, but they play an important role in nature. They help keep insect populations in balance by hunting honeybees, caterpillars, and other insects.

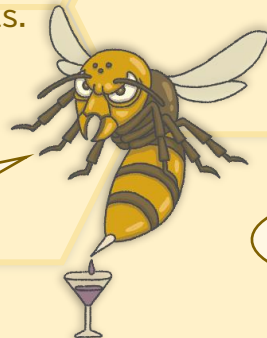
Those giant hornets are one reason we can't live in the wild in Japan.



Western honey bee

The Amazing Abilities of the Northern Giant Hornet

One of the Northern giant hornet's most powerful weapons is its stinger. Its venom is a mixture of powerful toxins that can affect the nerves, muscles, organs, and even red blood cells.



Unlike honey bees, I can sting again and again!

With powerful mandibles, Northern giant hornets can crush hard-shelled beetles, praying mantises, and even other hornets. A single hornet can destroy a honeybee colony.



I can chew through anything!

Even the Japanese rhinoceros beetle, known as the "king of insects," is no match for the Northern giant hornet. The hornet can bite off its legs while competing for tree sap.



Guess I'll have to wait until they're gone for the night...