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TRAPPING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Operating principle of the Selective Trap.

The traps consist of a tray in which the bait will be placed. This tray is covered by a capture box with a fine mesh that prevents trapped insects from accessing the bait.



This has two advantages: The bait remains intact throughout the season and the hornets will be exhausted very quickly and die in less than 48 hours as they will not have access to food.

The capture box is equipped with two access modules (MAS) facing inwards. These funnel cones are pierced with numerous openings allowing the exit of bees and other insects smaller than the Asian hornet, but also allowing free circulation of scents, carrying the smell of the bait several hundred meters. The “funnel” ends by an input reducer calibrated to the hundredth of a millimeter, just allowing an Asian hornet queen to make its way in without allowing any escape.

Larger insects, notably the European hornet queen cannot enter the trap because its abdomen is larger than of Asian hornets.

It is important to put a roof on the top of the lid that protrudes from 15 cm in all directions. This will protect the trap from rain and preserve the integrity of the bait. The roof should be opaque so that insects not targeted by this device can find the exit. It is important to place a weight on the roof to prevent the wind from blowing it away (a concrete block or two bricks is ideal). The roof can be a wooden plank for example, you can get it in any DIY store.

Finally, it is recommended to place the trap high enough, whether on an old garden table or on concrete blocks for example. Thirty centimeters will be a minimum to prevent ground insects to crawl in and interfere with the operation.



2. Baits for preventive trapping:

At the beginning of the season (around March) you can place honey and wax in the bait tray.

This is very attractive to AH queens looking to feed. If you don't have honey or wax, don't panic, thick syrup saturated with sugar (70%) or very ripe fruits are also very effective. You can of course mix several types of bait. It is important to be very generous with the amount of bait because the more scent there is, the larger the area will be regarding the action of the trap.

The key point: Filling the entire bait box is ideal, be generous!

You can add leftover jam or some honey forgotten in the back of the closet. From time to time, add a few centiliters of beer (prefer a very sweet beer such as tequila beer, red fruit beer, etc.) in the bait box is recommended, the yeast present inside will create a fermentation and it will increase the smell. To add beer or renew / top up the bait, it's safe to do at night by simply lifting the trap box to access the bait box, as the 2 boxes are separated by the mesh. Just be careful not to hold the trap box by the MAS cones. Always wear PPE when handling the trap.

It is important to leave dead hornets in the trap because they will continue to spread pheromones that will attract their congeners.



Liquid attractant found in garden centers or on internet can also be used in the capture tray, however this will not make a large difference.

3. Baits for curative trapping:

End of July /beginning of August, even if you notice the presence of AH workers, you can add meat baits such as fish bones, Fish sauce, leftovers barbecue, cat food with salmon or even shrimp heads... The trap will work if the bait is very attractive.

The idea is therefore to test it beforehand.

What is important is a strong smell so that the hornets can't resist it. Beware, some baits can work in one area and less well a few miles further away because in some areas nature is more generous in potential prey for the AH.

Beekeepers must **first** distract the Asian hornets who have become accustomed to refueling by preying on bees at the apiary. To do this, position the meat bait in the open air where you plan to set your trap. After a day or two, the hornets will be accustomed to feed there.

You can then install the trap by keeping the same bait and adding some honey to it before placing the mixture in the bait box.

This operation is critical to ensure a good curative trapping. As usual, PPE are needed (bee suit, gloves, wellies)

4. My trap isn't working?

If you haven't trapped any insects but you see Asian hornets around your garden or apiary, there are various factors that can explain this. The fact that the smell is not well distributed or wherever the chosen bait is not palatable enough and is in competition with what nature is providing around for the AH to feed on could be the reason.

You can turn your trap 45 degrees or even 90 degrees and make sure it's positioned in a wind corridor to spread the scent more efficiently.

It is also important that you do not use a "bottle" trap near your traps as it will develop more scents (by heating faster) and therefore reduce the attractiveness of your AH trap boxes. A misplaced bottle trap (or any similar device) will also attract various insects you do not want to target!! It has been observed that where the European hornet is, the Asian hornet avoid the area. Therefore, you certainly do not want to eliminate any European hornets by trapping them in non-selective bottle traps.

Try other baits by referring to the trapping calendar and be generous!

If you think you have done everything correctly and you are not capturing anything, please email us so that we can analyze the reason together.

5. The Asian Hornet trapping Calendar:

<u>Months</u>	<u>Feb / Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>
<u>Phases</u>	Foundation of the colony			Growth of the colony			Reproduction of the colony		
<u>Carbohydrate Sweet Baits</u>	Honeycomb, Capping, sweet products. Mix of an equal quantity of stout (dark beer), white wine and Red Fruit syrup (not squash!). Beer and syrup attract AH while white wine is a honey bee repellent.								
<u>Protein Baits</u>	No protein			Fish, fish sauce, prawn heads, cat food (salmon), bbq leftover, meat...			No protein		

6. The traps at the apiary

For the protection of your apiary if the AH is usually present in your area, we recommend the use of very well filled capture tray as the amount of bait present will give more fragrance and will be more attractive than your hives.

Setting your traps will be as follow (curative action and protective action):

For small apiaries (up to about 8 hives), one trap at the back of your hive line is sufficient. The trap is to be set 2 to 5 meters back from your hives

For slightly larger apiaries (up to 20 hives), two traps are needed, one trap at the entrance of the wind corridor and one at the exit is more effective.

Finally, for large apiaries, we recommend using three traps: one at the entrance, one at the exit and one on the back of your hives.

It is important that the traps are placed at least 2 to 5 meters away from the hives so that the pheromones of the trapped hornets do not stress your bees, limiting their honey production.

In early spring, it is imperative to remove from the apiary any dead or weak hives that would compete with your traps because of the honey it contains and therefore the scents it produces.

For preventive and monitoring trapping, we do recommend to place the trap away from the apiary (50m being a minimum) to avoid attracting AH in the vicinity of the beehives.

7. Health and Safety

Always keep in mind that the Asian Hornet can be dangerous!

When intervening on your trap, wear protective clothes: wellies, bee suit (double the protection, long sleeves under the suit, jean trousers) or specialist pest control suit, thick gloves (garden, latex, dish washing gloves will NOT work). Thick leather or heavy-duty gloves will be best.

Avoid any scented shampoo, soaps or any kind of perfumed products when you plan to intervene on the traps.

When possible, do it at night, and use a red light to avoid attracting insects.

NEVER open the trap box when you spot live AH in the trap. If you really need to access the trap box, immerse it in water to kill the AH before opening. You should not need to open it till the end of the

season, dead AH in the box will attract flying ones because of the pheromones. It is safe to access the bait box, but always think "Am I protected enough?". It's better to be over protected rather than being at risk of an Asian Hornet attack.

If you know of an Asian Hornet nest in your area, do not intervene yourself! Contact us for guidance or refer to www.rawmellifera.co.uk under the Asian hornet control section where you will find all the links for reports and actions.

Raw Mellifera Ltd or any of its employees denies any responsibility regarding the risk associated to the use of the MAS fitted Asian hornet selective trap.

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For any individual order of the MAS, please go on the website to order directly. For any bulk order (50 kits minimum) please do Email us with your requirement. Please allow 30 to 45 days delivery delay due to international shipping. All orders to be paid upfront.