



## NORTHERN GIANT HORNET: ENVIRONMENT

**NEWS:** Why and how did the United States eradicate ‘murder hornets’?

### WHAT’S IN THE NEWS?

The invasive Northern giant hornet, a threat to pollinators, agriculture, and humans, was successfully eradicated in the US through coordinated efforts involving innovative tracking, nest neutralization techniques, and public participation. Vigilance remains critical to prevent its reintroduction.

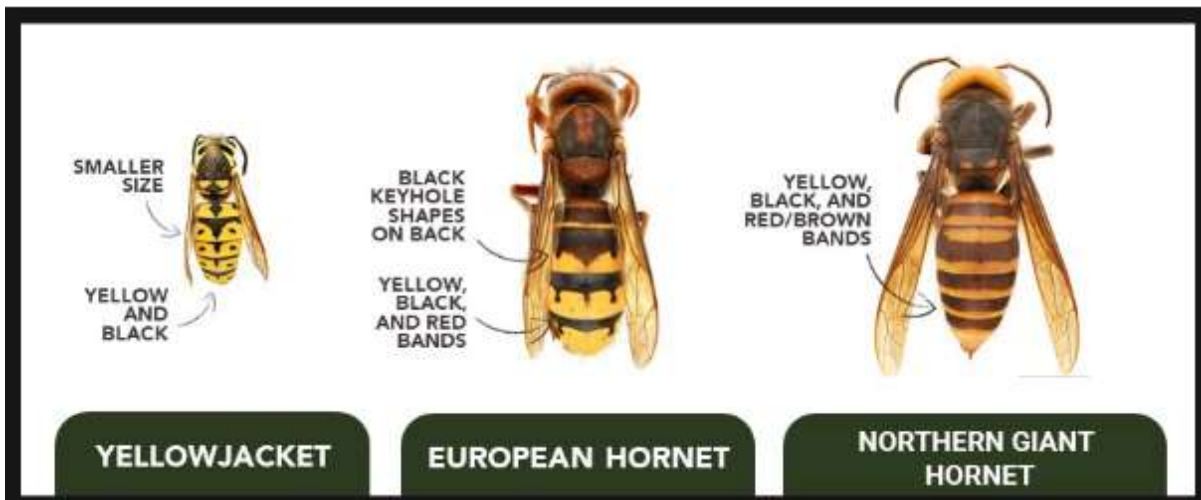
### Eradication of Northern Giant Hornet in the US:

- **Threat of the Northern Giant Hornet:**
  - Known as the “murder hornet,” it posed a severe threat to pollinators, especially honeybees, by destroying entire beehives during a “slaughter phase.”
  - Hornets killed bees by decapitation and used the brood to feed their young.
  - Dangerous to humans, with a potent venom and ability to sting multiple times; caused 42 deaths in China in 2013.
- **Efforts for Eradication:**
  - First detected in Washington state in 2019.
  - Collaboration between federal, state, and international agencies to locate and neutralize nests.
  - Innovative methods included attaching radio tags to live hornets to trace nests.
  - Nests were eliminated using foam, plastic wraps, vacuuming, and carbon dioxide.
  - Public participation through setting traps contributed significantly to the effort.
- **Significance:**
  - Protects pollinators, agriculture, ecosystems, and related industries.
  - Highlights the need for continued vigilance to prevent reintroduction.



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Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/why-and-how-did-the-united-states-eradicate-murder-hornets-9736808/>

