

# STOP THE HUNGRY PESTS!

**It's never too early to think about your future. See how the team at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) fights back against Hungry Pests. Read this article to learn about this important work.**

Something bad might be hiding in our forests, parks, and yards. Hungry Pests are insects and plant diseases that come from far away and hide in nature. Don't confuse Hungry Pests for mice or mosquitoes. Hungry Pests are insects like the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB) and the gypsy moth. These dangerous pests can kill trees if we don't stop them. Hungry Pests can even destroy some of our favorite foods.

## FIGHTING BACK AGAINST HUNGRY PESTS

The team at USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service works to keep Hungry Pests out. Pests can sneak into the country inside or on fruits, vegetables, and plants that we buy from other countries or that people bring when they

travel. Pests can also "catch a ride" in a package sent through the mail. When Hungry Pests slip into our country, USDA helps hunt them down.

## THE SPREAD

Pests multiply and grow quickly in number. They then spread to other places. Humans help pests move around. For example, when we go camping and get close to nature, it also means nature can get close to us. Pests may try to hitchhike a ride home on our boots, clothes, or other camping gear.

**"I'M REALLY NOT THE PUSHY TYPE. PEOPLE HELP ME GET AROUND ON THE THINGS THEY MOVE AND PACK."**

**-VIN VASIVE**



# HUNGRY PESTS DETECTIVES: THEIR PROCESS

## USDA ACTS FAST TO STOP THE SPREAD.

**Did you know?** USDA found the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in Boston with the help of a gardener who saw unusual holes on trees and reported what he saw to USDA. That call made it possible for USDA to act fast and eliminate the dangerous tree-killing insect.

1

### SEE

A person (like you or me) notices signs of a Hungry Pest in the garden or at a park, on a walk, or while camping.

2

### REPORT

A person calls or emails the local USDA office to report what they see.

3

### COLLECT

A USDA official collects a pest sample to figure out what kind of pest has been found.

4

### CONFIRM

USDA scientists identify the pest using tests, photos from a microscope, and sometimes DNA analysis.

5

### ANNOUNCE

USDA tells local officials and the public that a pest has been found so everyone can help prevent the spread.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We can all play a role when it comes to preventing the spread of Hungry Pests. USDA teaches people about Hungry Pests. Listen for news about Hungry Pests in your area and spread the word. Learn what you can do to leave Hungry Pests behind.

Learn more about future careers and jobs at USDA by visiting: <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/careers/usda-pathways-programs>.

## A SWEET THANK-YOU

People in Vermont made a special pancake and maple syrup breakfast to thank the people of Massachusetts for fighting back against the **Asian Longhorned Beetle**, or **ALB** for short. ALB threatens to destroy maple trees used to make maple syrup in Vermont.

