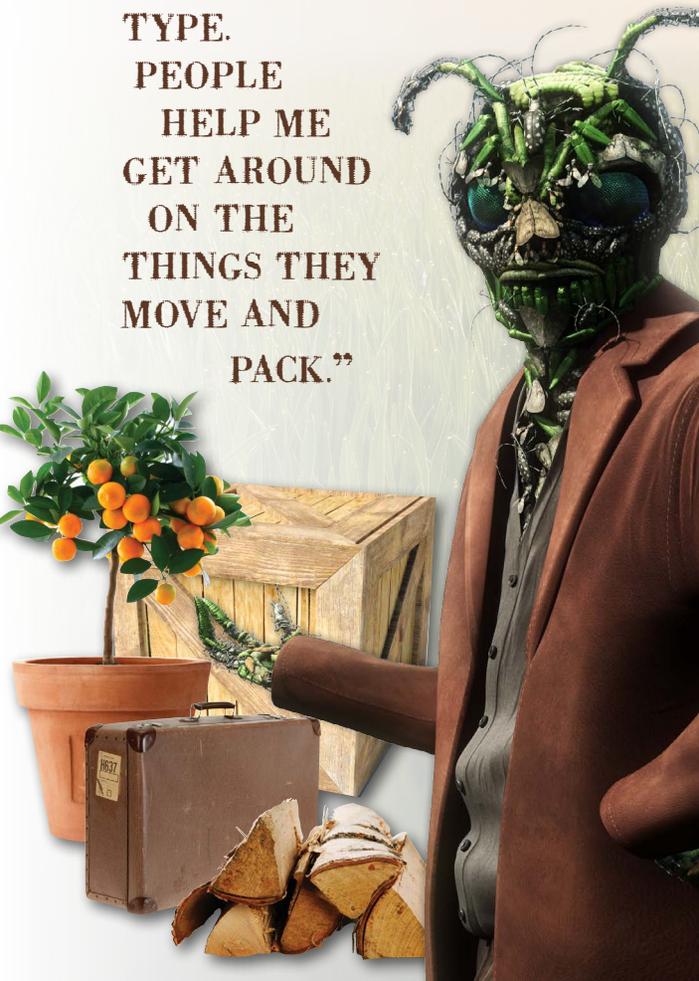


# HOW DO THEY GET HERE?

Although some invasive species can slip into the United States naturally via wind or ocean currents, it's uncommon. Most get help from human activities, entering our country in cargo, mail, and passenger baggage. Agricultural produce, nursery stock, cut flowers, and timber can harbor these pests, and invasive species also hitchhike on containers, crates, or pallets.

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



# DID YOU KNOW?

**The cost of invasive species exceeds \$1 billion annually.** Farmers lose crops, prices for produce and goods increase, and the quarantines imposed on our agricultural exports can be devastating. Plus, there are cleanup costs associated with eradicating these hungry pests.

**Invasive species throw our ecosystem off balance.** These hungry pests feast on and infest our agriculture, damage our parks and forests, wreck our gardens, push out native species, reduce biological diversity, and change wildfire frequency and intensity. Some pests can even be dangerous to human health.

For more information, visit



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**“WHAT A BEAUTIFUL STATE YOU LIVE IN. I COULD JUST EAT IT UP!”**

Invasive species threaten to devour our crops, trees, and way of life. Learn how to leave hungry pests behind.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ARIZONA?

We are currently at risk for or infested or infected by the following:

## Detected

- Asian citrus psyllid
- Karnal bunt
- Sweet orange scab
- Cotton (Ozonium) root rot\*
- Giant salvinia

## At Risk

- Citrus greening
- Imported fire ants
- Pecan weevil\*
- Exotic fruit flies
- Emerald ash borer
- Old world bollworm

# HOW ARE WE AFFECTED?

Arizona has a diverse agricultural landscape that contributes \$17.1 billion to the State's economy. It also ranks high among the Nation's top producers in field greens, cotton, tree nuts, dates, citrus, grains, and agricultural seed. The State is known for contributing to the market place superior, top-quality agricultural commodities. Southwest Arizona is nationally known as the "Salad Bowl" for the amount of quality leafy green vegetables produced in that area.

Currently, Arizona and USDA are battling pests and diseases on different fronts in a cooperative effort. Citrus greening poses a serious threat if introduced into the State. With no known cure and the length of time before symptoms are evident after infection, impacts could be severe. The disease reduces the quantity and quality of citrus fruits and will eventually kill an infected tree.

A new threat comes from the old world bollworm. It is a significant threat to agriculture because it has a wide host range that includes a number of Arizona's high-value crops, including cotton, corn, small grains, peppers, and tomatoes, among others. Additionally, this pest bears a close resemblance to other cutworms, including the corn earworm, which is a common pest in the State. Global economic damage from the old world bollworm is estimated at \$2 billion annually.

To learn more about hungry pests and their impacts, visit:  
[www.HungryPests.com](http://www.HungryPests.com)

*\*State-regulated only; not federally regulated*

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There are many ways you can help stop the spread of invasive species, no matter where you live—and that's by preventing their introduction in the first place.

**Buy Local, Burn Local.** Invasive pests and larvae can hide and ride long distances in firewood. Don't give them a free ride to start a new infestation—buy firewood where you'll burn it.

**Plant Carefully.** Buy your plants from a reputable source and avoid using invasive plant species at all costs.

**Do Not Bring or Mail** fresh fruits, vegetables, or plants into your State or another State unless agricultural inspectors have cleared them beforehand.

**Cooperate** with any agricultural quarantine restrictions and allow authorized agricultural workers access to your property for pest or disease surveys.

**Keep It Clean.** Wash animals, tires, and gear between fishing, hunting, or camping trips. Clean lawn furniture when moving it from one home to another.

We can fight back against these hungry pests and keep them from destroying our ecosystems, crops, and local plant life.

**Learn To Identify.** If you see signs of an invasive pest or disease, write down or take a picture of what you see, and then report it to your local USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) office ([aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd](http://aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd)), State agriculture department ([nationalplantboard.org/member](http://nationalplantboard.org/member)), or local master gardener ([nifa.usda.gov/LGU-map](http://nifa.usda.gov/LGU-map)).

**Speak Up.** Declare all agricultural items to customs officials when returning from international travel. Call USDA to find out what's allowed:

- **(301) 851-2046** for questions about plants
- **(301) 851-3300** for questions about animals

“WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? DO I LOOK INVASIVE?”

