

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



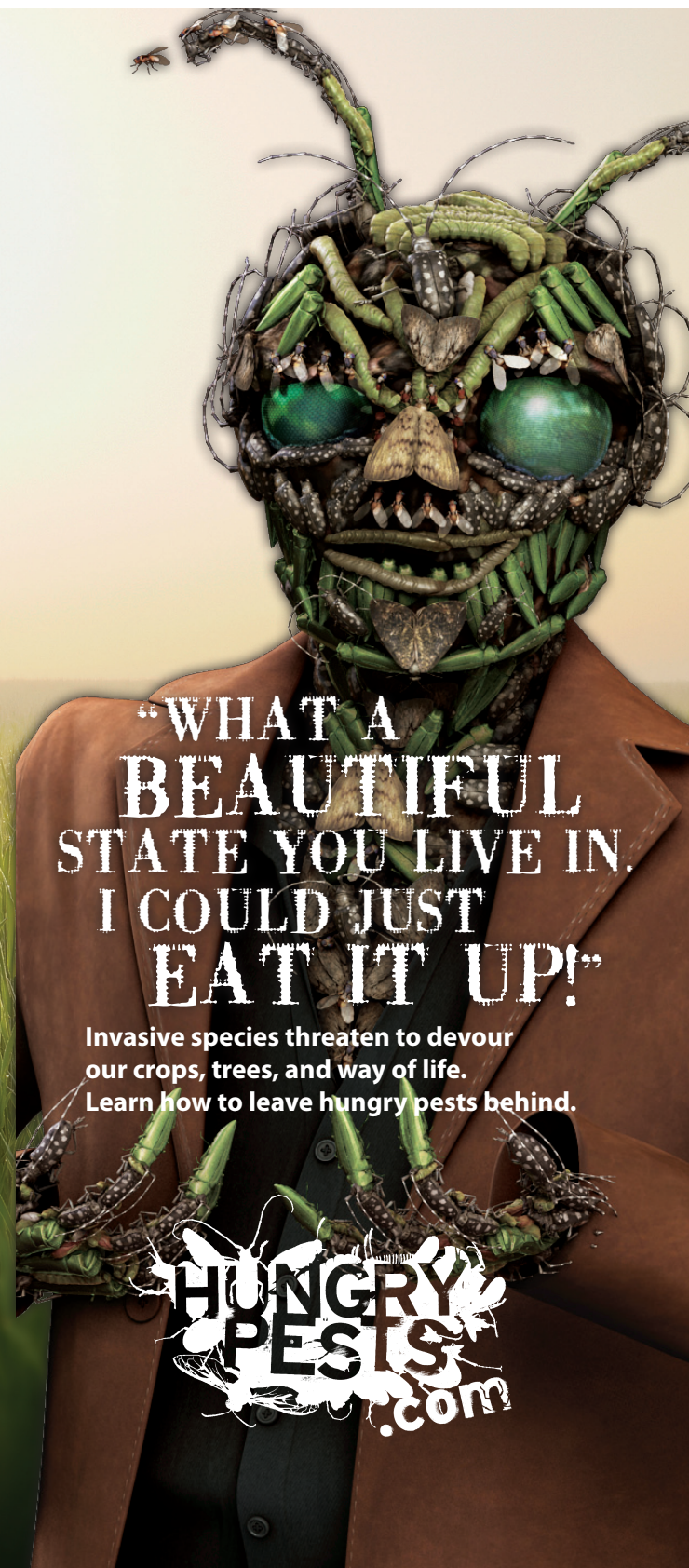
United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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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 FLORIDA?

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

Detected

- Asian citrus psyllid
- Citrus canker
- Citrus greening
- Giant African snail
- Redbay ambrosia beetle*

At Risk

- Asian longhorned beetle
- Light brown apple moth
- Mediterranean fruit fly
- Mexican fruit fly
- Oriental fruit fly
- Red palm weevil*
- Sudden oak death

HOW ARE WE AFFECTED?

There's a lot at stake. Florida is an agricultural powerhouse. Our State ranks among the Nation's top producers in citrus, other fruits, and vegetables. Florida accounts for about 70 percent (or \$1.5 billion) of the total U.S. value of orange production. The State, in partnership with USDA and industry, is battling four main citrus diseases: citrus greening, citrus canker, sweet orange scab, and citrus black spot. Citrus greening is the most serious disease and has no cure. It reduces the quantity and quality of citrus fruits, eventually rendering infected trees useless.

Florida and USDA are also working together to eradicate the giant African snail, a serious pest that attacks 500 different plants, lays up to 1,200 eggs each year, and can carry a parasite that can cause a form of meningitis in humans. Oriental and Mediterranean fruit flies are also a constant threat to Florida's agriculture.

Our State is an international import powerhouse. With the Port of Miami and 12 other seaports, plus 15 major airports, Florida is the gateway to the Caribbean, South America, Europe, and Africa. Florida must remain vigilant against the introduction and spread of invasive pests.

To learn more about what these specific pests look like, or how to identify their impact, visit:

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 (www.aphis.usda.gov/StateOffices), State agriculture department (nationalplantboard.org/member), or local master gardener (www.nifa.usda.gov/Extension).

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?”

