

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



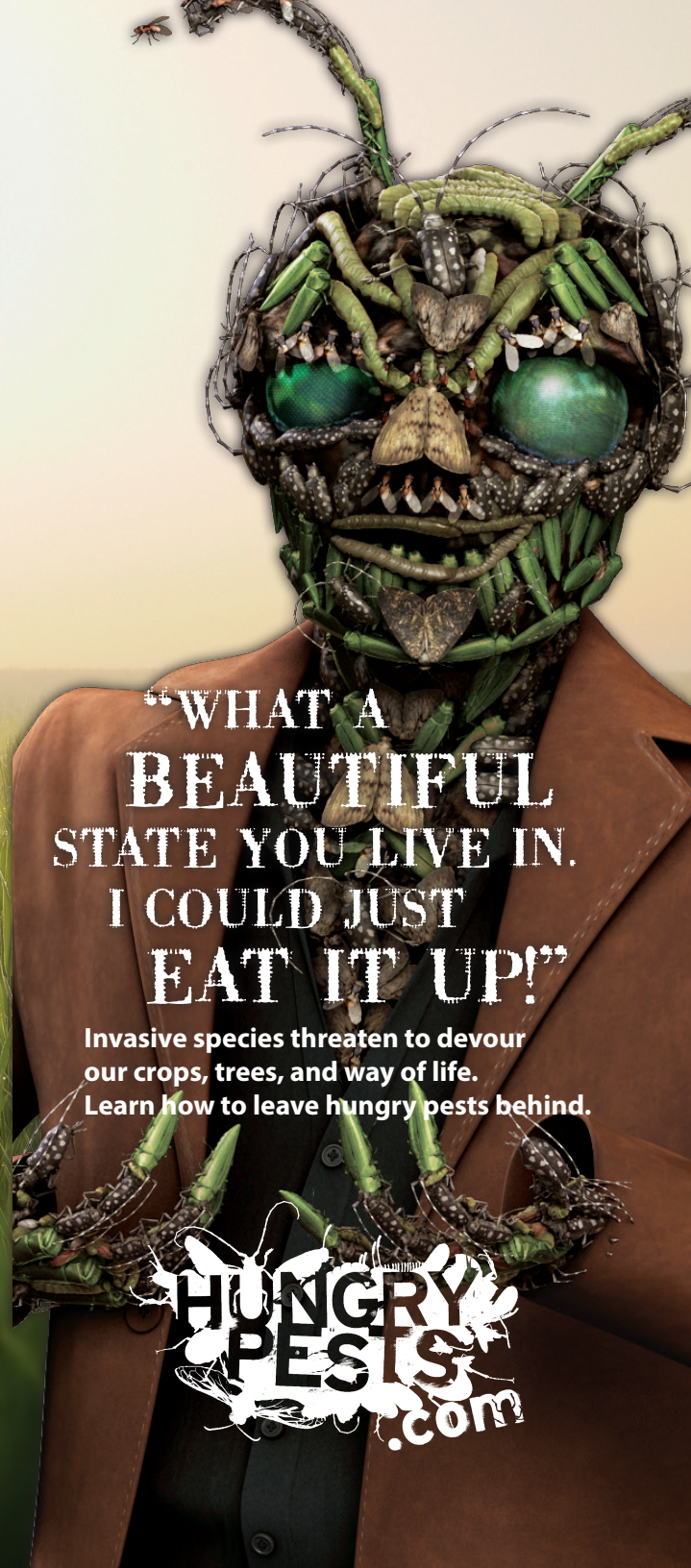
United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Issued September 2012
Program Aid No. 2113-LA

“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 LOUISIANA?

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

Detected:

- Asian citrus psyllid
- Citrus greening
- Diaprepes root weevil*
- Tropical soda apple
- Cactus moth

Pests of Concern to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF):

- Citrus longhorned beetle
- Gypsy moth
- South American palm weevil*
- Sudden oak death
- Giant African snail
- Burrowing nematode*
- Asian longhorned beetle
- Emerald ash borer
- Light brown apple moth
- Sirex woodwasp
- Japanese beetle
- Pine shoot beetle
- Citrus canker
- Palm diseases*
- Plant feeding snails*
- Kudzu bug**
- Brown marmorated stink bug**
- Boxwood blight**

HOW ARE WE AFFECTED?

Louisiana agriculture is a highly significant segment of the State and national economy. In 2011, Louisiana's agriculture contributed \$10.7 billion to the State's economy. Many Louisiana communities depend on agriculture and forestry commodities as a major job creator and an economic engine. Hungry pests put these commodities at risk. Can you imagine if our beautiful live oaks or pine trees were damaged or destroyed because of something we neglected to do?

Invasive species are threatening Louisiana from all directions. Pathways of introduction are everywhere. If we all pitch in and do our part, we can help protect our agriculture and our environment. LDAF's Office of Agricultural and Environmental Science (AES), Horticulture and Quarantine Division—in cooperation with USDA's Plant Protection and Quarantine program—is doing its part by putting an array of pest detection efforts into action. Pest surveys are conducted by AES inspectors who are trained to recognize which pests are threatening our State, what survey methods are most effective at detecting new pest populations, and how to effectively respond when a new pest is detected. These surveys are funded through a national program called the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey; its Web site is caps.ceris.purdue.edu.

To learn more about pests threatening Louisiana, please visit www.ldaf.state.la.us and click the following series of links: "Offices," "Agricultural and Environmental Sciences," "Horticulture and Quarantine Programs," "Plant Pest Quarantine Programs," and finally "Plant Pest Fact Sheets."

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

www.HungryPests.com.

* State-regulated only

** Not regulated but still of concern

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?”

