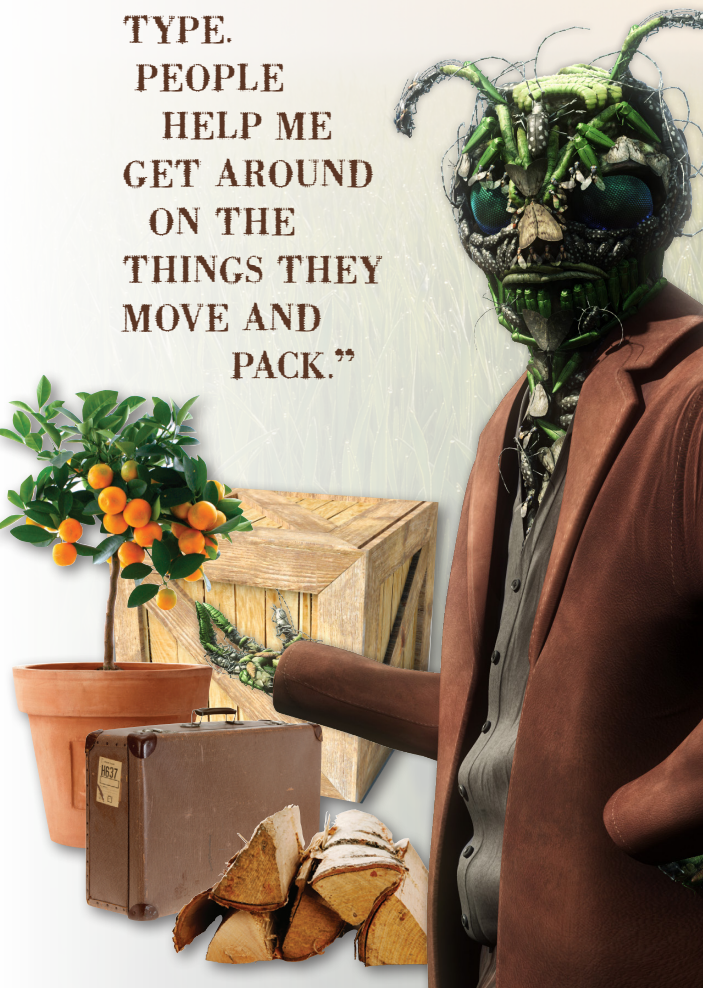


HOW DO THEY GET HERE?

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.



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MINNESOTA?

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

Detected

- Brown marmorated stink bug*
- Emerald ash borer
- European gypsy moth
- Japanese beetle
- Oriental bittersweet*
- Pine shoot beetle
- Spotted wing drosophila

At Risk

- Asian longhorned beetle
- Mountain pine beetle*
- Potato cyst nematode
- Swede midge*
- Thousand cankers disease*

HOW ARE WE AFFECTED?

Both agriculture and forestry are important parts of Minnesota's economy. Pests, like the spotted wing drosophila and brown marmorated stink bug, are already impacting Minnesota producers. Others are ready to take a bite out of Minnesota's agricultural production, such as the old world bollworm, Swede midge, and potato cyst nematode.

Similarly, species like the emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, Oriental bittersweet, and pine shoot beetle are hurting our forests and community trees. We have a shared responsibility to keep them from spreading further. These pests are bad enough, but there are more than just those—some examples include the Asian longhorned beetle, mountain pine beetle, and thousand cankers disease—and if they were to reach our State, they would have a big impact on Minnesotans and our forest economy. We all need to make sure we don't let these pests get a foothold here.

Learn more about our State's work with invasive pests at:
www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives

**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), State agriculture department (nationalplantboard.org/member), or local master gardener (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?”

