UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

INVASIVE PLANT PEST AND DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH
APRIL 2018

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS citizens in our great country are entitled to enjoy clean water, fresh air, lush landscapes, parks and green spaces, crop and food diversity, recreational opportunities, and prized natural resources; and

WHEREAS the introduction and spread of invasive plant pests and diseases continue to threaten and damage our Nation's trees, forests, and food crops; and

WHEREAS by increasing the awareness of these destructive plant pests and diseases, especially those known as "Hungry Pests," individuals can take responsibility for their actions and not accidentally spread these pests and diseases; and

WHEREAS spring marks the emergence of these damaging pests that can hide in fruit, vegetables, plants, firewood, or on familiar outdoor items—or hitchhike on our cars, trucks, and campers; and

WHEREAS this is an opportunity for the public to join forces with Federal and state agencies, township and county governments, businesses, industry, environmental groups, schools, community organizations, and fellow citizens to help stop invasive pests;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue do hereby proclaim the month of April 2018 as Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding of invasive plant pests and diseases—specifically, those designated as Hungry Pests, whose destruction has great environmental, ecological, and economic impact on our Nation, states, and communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of April 2018, the two-hundred forty-second year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Sonny Perdue

SONNY PERDUE
Secretary