

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

INVASIVE PLANT PEST AND DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2022

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the introduction and spread of invasive plant pests and diseases continue to damage our Nation's natural resources and food crops, and threaten the livelihoods of those who rely on them; and

WHEREAS by increasing the awareness of these destructive plant pests and diseases, especially those known as "Hungry Pests," individuals can take simple steps to avoid inadvertently spreading them; and

WHEREAS spring marks the emergence of damaging pests that can hide in firewood or attach to outdoor items; hitchhike on cars, trucks, vans, and campers; or spread on homegrown fruit, vegetables, and plants sent through the mail, carried on a flight, or given as gifts; and

WHEREAS climate change has increased the level of plant pest infestations and disease infection, allowed pests to produce more generations each year, extended the suitable habitat for plant pests, and increased the risk to plants; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2022 as Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month. I encourage all U.S. residents to increase their understanding of how plants contribute to our lives and how invasive plant pests and diseases, specifically those designated as Hungry Pests, greatly harm the environment and economy of our Nation, states, and communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11 day of April 2022, the two-hundred forty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary