

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.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DELAWARE?

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

Detected

- Brown marmorated stink bug*
- Japanese beetle
- European gypsy moth

At Risk

- Emerald ash borer (EAB)
- Asian longhorned beetle
- Asian gypsy moth
- Thousand cankers disease*
- Red imported fire ant
- Pine shoot beetle
- Spotted lanternfly*

HOW ARE WE AFFECTED?

Delaware's crop production and forestry contribute about \$1.3 billion to our State economy every year¹, and people come from many other States to enjoy our natural wonders. At the same time, we're surrounded by potential invaders, from the emerald ash borer (EAB) in the north, to the red imported fire ant in the south. About 20 percent of Delaware's land is forested and threatened by the EAB, Asian longhorned beetle, thousand cankers disease, and pine shoot beetle. Everything from agricultural jobs to recreation, camping, and gardening would be negatively affected if these hungry pests become established in our State.

The Delaware Department of Agriculture actively works to detect any potential invaders early through the Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey and Nursery Inspection programs, but we can't do it without you. We all need to work together to protect Delaware's natural resources from these hungry pests.

To learn more about Delaware or to report a pest, please visit: dda.delaware.gov/plantind/cooppest.shtml

**Not State or federally regulated, but of concern to Delaware*

¹Awokuse, T., Ilvento, T., & Johnston, T. (2010, December). The impact of agriculture on Delaware's economy. Retrieved from <http://ag.udel.edu/deagimpact/AgInDeEconB.pdf>.

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?”

