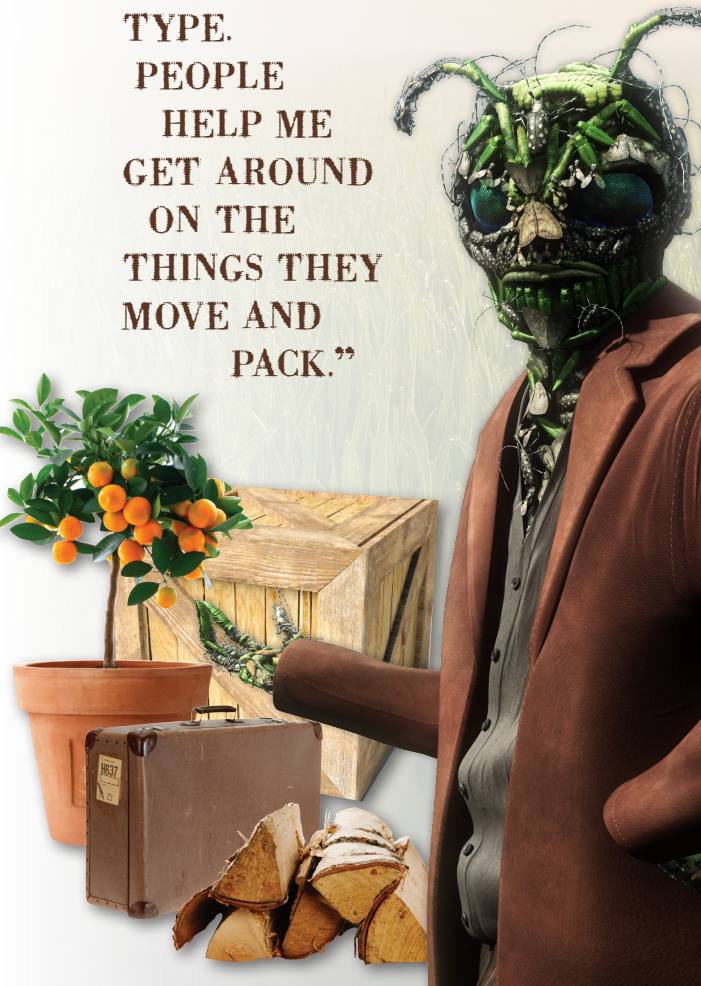


# HOW DO THEY GET HERE?

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 NEW MEXICO?

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

## At Risk

- Emerald ash borer (destroys ash trees)
- Pecan weevil\* (harms the pecan industry)
- Gypsy moth (threatens forests)
- Japanese beetle (damages turf and ornamentals)
- Red imported fire ant (can inflict painful stings)

# HOW ARE WE AFFECTED?

The plant pests listed above are established in other States and, as of 2015, have not been introduced or considered widespread in New Mexico. The accidental or purposeful importation and subsequent widespread establishment of these pests in New Mexico could cause significant economic and aesthetic damage to our State's agriculture, parks, landscapes, and forests, and could impact agricultural commodity exports. In the case of red imported fire ant, widespread establishment could result in severe human discomfort.

Invasive pests have the ability to affect New Mexico's agriculture and forestry industries, which have revenue valued at over \$4 billion annually. Because there's so much at stake, we all need to remain vigilant to prevent these pests from getting a foothold in our State.

To learn more about hungry pests and their impacts, visit:  
**[www.HungryPests.com](http://www.HungryPests.com)**

\*State-regulated in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and west Texas; 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](http://aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd)), State agriculture department ([nationalplantboard.org/member](http://nationalplantboard.org/member)), or local master gardener ([nifa.usda.gov/LGU-map](http://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?”

