



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## HOW THEY SPREAD TO NEW AREAS

Although some invasive pests spread naturally, it's uncommon. Most of these pests move domestically and internationally through pathways people create, such as:

- Passenger baggage
- Plants and plant parts
- Recreational vehicles
- Outdoor household goods
- Agricultural materials
- Internet sales
- Mail
- Outdoor gear
- Firewood

People  
help me  
get around  
on the things  
they move  
and pack.



## DID YOU KNOW?

**Invasive insects and plant diseases cost the United States an estimated \$40 billion each year.** Farmers lose crops, prices for produce and goods increase, and foreign markets can close to U.S. products from infested areas. Plus, there are costs associated with eradicating these hungry pests. Invasive species also 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.

For more information, visit

**HUNGRY  
PESTS  
.com**



North  
Carolina is  
beautiful.  
I could  
just eat  
it up!



## INVASIVE PEST THREATS IN NORTH CAROLINA

We have the following pests in our State and are working to keep others of concern out:

### Detected

- European gypsy moth
- Sweet potato weevil\*
- Emerald ash borer\*
- Imported fire ant
- Redbay ambrosia beetle\*
- Mile-a-minute weed\*

### Suitable Habitat

(Be on the lookout for these pests.)

- Spotted lanternfly\*
- Asian longhorned beetle
- Box tree moth
- Old world bollworm
- Giant African snail
- Sudden oak death

## THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE PESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina ranks fourth among States in terms of total forested land, comprising about 18.3 million acres or approximately 57 percent of the State's total land area. As of 2021, North Carolina boasted 8.3 million acres of farmland. With crops ranging from sweet potatoes to vineyard grapes, our producers help America set the table, and our forests provide enjoyment to millions.

Invasive species threaten our forests and farmland from the mountains to the coast. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDACS) has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to fight these hungry pests and protect our resources. We need your help! Hikers, hunters, and gardeners alike can help by keeping an eye out for invasive insects and plant diseases.

To report suspect invasive plant pests, contact NCDACS at 1-888-206-9333 or use our online pest reporting tool at [www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry](http://www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry).

To learn more about what these pests look like and how to stop their spread, visit:

**HungryPests.com**

\*State-regulated

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Don't give hungry pests a free ride.

Help stop the spread of invasive species by preventing their introduction in the first place.

**Don't move untreated firewood.** Tree-killing beetles could be hiding inside. Instead, buy certified, heat-treated firewood, or buy or gather wood where you burn it.

**Garden responsibly.** Source your seeds and plants domestically or follow USDA import regulations before purchasing plants or seeds online. Learn more about internet sales and responsible gardening practices at [HungryPests.com](http://HungryPests.com).

**Avoid moving or mailing** homegrown fresh fruits, vegetables, plants, or soil between States without contacting your local USDA office first. Moving soil within the continental United States is restricted unless authorized by USDA.

**Support USDA's work.** Allow agricultural staff to access your property for pest or disease surveys. Comply with quarantine restrictions, which are designed to keep pests and diseases from spreading.

**Clean outdoor items.** Wash vehicles and outdoor gear between fishing, hunting, or camping trips. Clean lawn care equipment and outdoor furniture before moving it from one home to another.

**Spot and report.** Look for signs of invasive pests and report them to your local USDA office ([www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd)) or your State agriculture department ([www.nationalplantboard.org/members](http://www.nationalplantboard.org/members)).

**Speak up.** Declare food and agricultural items to customs officials when returning from international travel. Visit [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov) and search "traveler information" to find out what's allowed.

We can fight back against these hungry pests and keep them from destroying our ecosystems, crops, and local plant life.

What's the  
big deal?  
Do I look  
Invasive?

