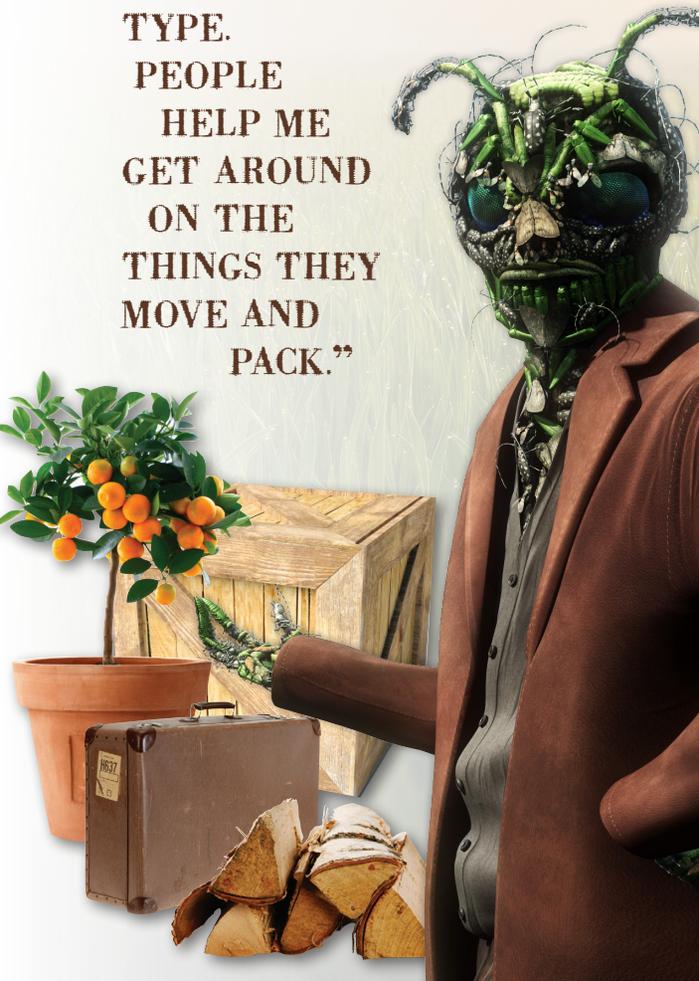


# HOW DO THEY GET HERE?

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

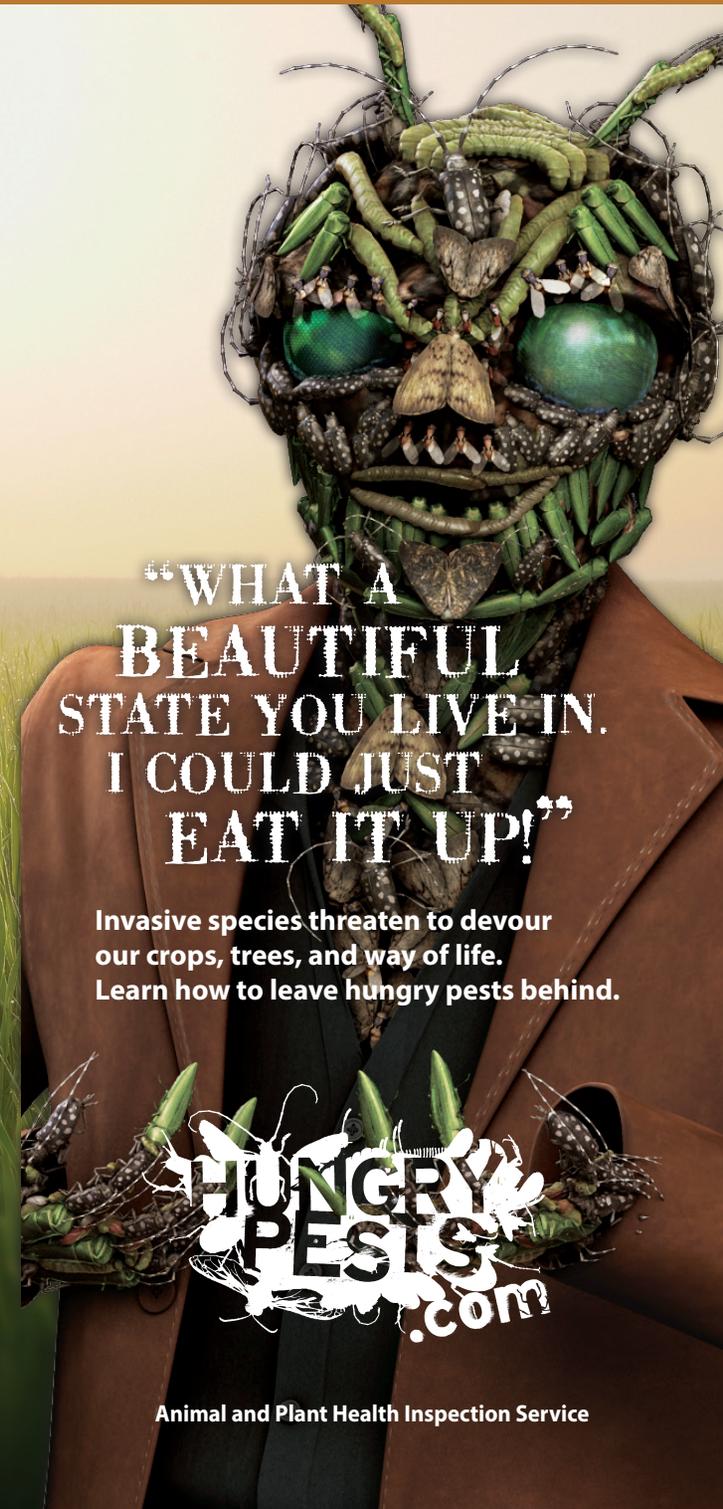


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**“WHAT A BEAUTIFUL STATE YOU LIVE IN. I COULD JUST EAT IT UP!”**

**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 NORTH CAROLINA?

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

## Detected

- Emerald ash borer
- European gypsy moth
- Hemlock wooly adelgid\*
- Imported fire ant
- Redbay ambrosia beetle\*
- Walnut twig beetle\*

## At Risk

- Asian longhorned beetle
- European grapevine moth
- False codling moth
- Giant African snail
- Khapra beetle
- *Phytophthora ramorum*

## HOW ARE WE AFFECTED?

North Carolina ranks fourth in the United States in terms of total forested acres with approximately 18.3 million acres, or 57 percent of the total land area, covered by forests. Our State's forestland provides great economic value and adds immensely to our residents' quality of life. Our forests provide enjoyment to millions of hikers, birders, campers, anglers, and other recreational users who contribute financially to local economies.

Invasive insects present a serious threat to our forest ecosystems. To keep our forests beautiful and healthy, we have to keep invasive pests from spreading and killing many ecologically important trees. It is crucial to monitor forest health and detect pests early and to take preventive measures to reduce the harmful effects of invasive insects and plant diseases. Invasive species threaten to alter forest ecosystems from the Appalachian Mountains to the East Coast, and every North Carolina resident should understand the risks and help protect our natural resources.

If you believe you have observed an invasive pest in our State, please inform the North Carolina Department of Agriculture by calling 1-888-206-9333. For further information about our programs, please visit: [www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry](http://www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry).

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

*\*State-regulated only; 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?”

