

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

Invasive species compete with local species for food, space, and resources. Since they don't always have natural predators, their numbers can become overwhelming if left unchecked.

The Environment. These hungry pests feast on and infest America's agriculture, damage our parks and forests, wreck our gardens, and throw our ecosystem off balance. They can push out native species, reduce biological diversity, and alter wildfire intensity and frequency. Not only do they harm plants and crops, but some pests also can be dangerous to human health.

The Economy. By some estimates, the economic impacts of invasive species exceed \$1 billion annually in the United States from lost revenue and cleanup costs. Farmers lose crops, prices for produce and goods increase, and the quarantines imposed by other States or countries on our agricultural exports can have a devastating effect.

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. Don't move live plants, fresh produce, or plant materials from one State to another or into the United States from abroad.

Spread the message, not the pests. Talk to friends and neighbors about hungry pests. And for more information, visit:

HUNGRYPESTS.COM



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