

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.

Louisiana is beautiful. I could just eat it up!



For more information, visit

HUNGRY PESTS
.com

INVASIVE PEST THREATS IN LOUISIANA

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

Detected

- Asian citrus psyllid
- Citrus canker
- Citrus greening
- Emerald ash borer*
- Guava root knot nematode*
- Lethal bronzing*
- Lethal yellowing*
- Sweet orange scab*

Suitable Habitat

(Be on the lookout for these pests.)

- Asian longhorned beetle
- Boll weevil*
- Citrus black spot
- Citrus longhorned beetle
- Cotton seed bug*
- Geranium wilt*
- Giant African snail
- European gypsy moth
- Sirex woodwasp*
- Spotted lanternfly*
- Sudden oak death

THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE PESTS IN LOUISIANA

Louisiana farms and forestry are vital to the State's economy and contribute more than \$11 billion annually in revenue. Louisiana is also rich in crops. In 2021, Louisiana farmers produced more than 55 million bushels of soybeans alone, valued at more than \$694 million. Unfortunately, Louisiana's crops and forests are threatened by invasive, economically and environmentally destructive pests.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are working together to detect invasive pests through surveys and public outreach. Public reporting plays a vital role in early detection and can save taxpayers millions of dollars when a new invasive pest population is caught early.

To learn about pests that may pose a risk in your area and how to report them, visit www.ldaf.state.la.us; click on "Programs," followed by "Plant Pest Quarantine Programs" and "Plant Pest Fact Sheets."

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.

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) or your State agriculture department (www.nationalplantboard.org/members).

Speak up. Declare food and agricultural items to customs officials when returning from international travel. Visit 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?**

