

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.

Oklahoma is beautiful. I could just eat it up!



For more information, visit



INVASIVE PEST THREATS IN OKLAHOMA

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

Detected

- Emerald ash borer*
- Japanese beetle*
- Brown marmorated stinkbug
- Ramorum blight
- Red imported fire ant*

Suitable Habitat

(Be on the lookout for these pests.)

- European gypsy moth
- Asian gypsy moth
- Spotted lanternfly*
- Thousand cankers disease of black walnut*
- Karnal bunt
- Guava root-knot nematode
- Asian longhorned beetle
- Box tree moth
- Tomato brown rugose fruit virus
- Cottonseed bug*

THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE PESTS IN OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma has rich agricultural roots and is home to several industries. With \$1.8 billion in agricultural exports and 34.4 million acres of farmland, Oklahoma's agricultural production is critical to the State's economy. Historically, our top three agricultural commodities have been hay, wheat, and cotton. Our natural resources are abundant and distinct. Oklahoma offers some of our Nation's most diverse terrain—boasting 12 ecoregions. From tallgrass prairies to cypress swamps, high desert—and the easternmost extension of the Rocky Mountains—we have an immense variety of landscapes. With a State this grand, it's worth taking a few simple precautions to protect it from invasive pests that would threaten the natural beauty.

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture and Forestry has partnered with 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 pests in Oklahoma, visit <https://ag.ok.gov/contact-us/>.

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?**

