



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.

Tennessee is beautiful. I could just eat it up!



For more information, visit



INVASIVE PEST THREATS IN TENNESSEE

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

Detected

- Imported fire ants*
- Emerald ash borer*
- Hemlock woolly adelgid*
- Laurel wilt*
- Gypsy moth

Suitable Habitat

- (Be on the lookout for these pests.)
- Sudden oak death
 - Spotted lanternfly*
 - Asian longhorned beetle
 - Box tree moth
 - Old world bollworm
 - Tomato brown rugose virus

THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE PESTS IN TENNESSEE

Tennessee boasts almost 70,000 farms spanning more than 10 million acres of land. The State is a major producer of soybeans, corn, hay, cotton, wheat, and tobacco. Soybeans alone brought in \$965 million worth of revenue in 2021. It's also home to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which is the most visited national park in the United States. There's a lot at stake.

In Tennessee, laurel wilt—a plant disease transmitted by an invasive beetle—threatens native sassafras trees and spice bush. Sudden oak death—a plant pathogen that spreads through infected soil and water—could threaten the State's oak exports and environment if it were introduced to our soil inadvertently. Likewise, if the Asian longhorned beetle arrived in Tennessee, it would pose a significant threat to hardwood trees such as maple, willow, birch, elm, and others. These are the threats we know about, but it's always good to keep an eye out for invasive pests that we haven't seen before.

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 the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (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?

