



*Secretary Brooke L. Rollins*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20250

INVASIVE PLANT PEST AND DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH  
APRIL 2025

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the spread of invasive plant pests and diseases continues to threaten our Nation's food supply, forests, and gardens, costing the U.S. an estimated \$40 billion in damages annually, while endangering American livelihoods and our ecosystems; and

WHEREAS increased global commerce and travel are accelerating the introduction and expansion of invasive species, intensifying the risks to agriculture, biodiversity, and local economies; and

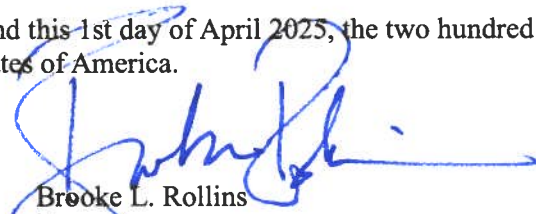
WHEREAS Spring marks the emergence of invasive pests that hide in firewood or attach to outdoor items; hitchhike on cars, trucks, boats, and campers; or spread on homegrown fruit, vegetables, and plants sent through the mail, carried on a flight, or given as gifts; and

WHEREAS individuals can help protect native landscapes and crops by staying informed and taking simple steps—such as sourcing firewood locally, inspecting outdoor gear for hitchhiking pests, and following quarantine guidelines for homegrown plants and crops; and

WHEREAS invasive species threats are on the rise emphasizing the urgency of prevention and early detection;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2025 as Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month. I encourage all Americans to take action in protecting our Nation's plant health by learning how invasive species impact our economy, environment, and daily lives—and by supporting efforts to prevent the spread of invasive plant pests and diseases.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of April 2025, the two hundred forty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

  
Brooke L. Rollins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture