



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## 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.

For more information, visit

**HUNGRY  
PESTS  
.com**

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Kentucky is  
beautiful.  
I could  
just eat  
it up!



## INVASIVE PEST THREATS IN KENTUCKY

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

### Detected

- Emerald ash borer\*
- Imported fire ant
- Hemlock woolly adelgid\*

### Suitable Habitat

(Be on the lookout for these pests.)

- Asian longhorned beetle
- Spotted lanternfly\*
- Gypsy moth
- Sudden oak death

## THE IMPACT OF INVASIVE PESTS IN KENTUCKY

Kentucky has a diverse agricultural landscape spanning almost 13 million acres of farmland. The State is a major producer of corn, soybeans, hay, tobacco, and wheat. Together, these crops were valued at more than \$4 billion in 2021.\*\*

Kentucky has a diverse mix of hardwood species and more than 12 million acres of forested land—that's almost half the State! Those forests also support the local economy. Kentucky ranks among the top three States in hardwood production and is a top veneer producer in the South.

With so many valuable crops and natural resources, Kentucky has a lot to lose in the battle against invasive species. Invasive plant pests and diseases cost the United States about \$40 billion in losses every year. The good news is that you can protect Kentucky's rich agricultural and natural resources from this threat. Help the Kentucky Department of Agriculture detect invasive plant pests and diseases early so we can stop them from spreading. Report pests you suspect may be invasive to your State Plant Regulatory Official.

**To learn more about what these pests look  
like and how to stop their spread, visit:  
[HungryPests.com](http://HungryPests.com)**

\* State-regulated

\*\* Per USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

## 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](http://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](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd)) or your State agriculture department ([www.nationalplantboard.org/members](http://www.nationalplantboard.org/members)).

**Speak up.** Declare food and agricultural items to customs officials when returning from international travel. Visit [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://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?**

