

Forest insects and diseases kill millions of trees every year. Keep your backyard, campgrounds, and favorite places safe from these tree-killing pests.

Prevention is the key. Buy firewood near where you will burn it. Don't move firewood when you travel, camp, or visit another state.



Caterpillars of the gypsy moth defoliate thousands of acres of oak forests in the eastern US every year. This pest is just one of many that could be introduced to Missouri on firewood.

Images: Bill McNeel, Wisconsin DNR, Bugwood.org



"What's in your firewood?" image credits: Thousand cankers disease: Elizabeth Bush, VA Polytechnic Institute & State Univ; walnut twig beetle & larvae: Whitney Cranshaw, CO State Univ; walnut twig beetle on dime: MO Dept of Conservation; gypsy moth: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ of CT; spotted lanternfly: Lawrence Barringer, PA Dept of Agriculture; spotted lanternfly eggs: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State Univ; emerald ash borer gallery: Edward Czerwinski, Ontario Min of Natural Resources; emerald ash borer larva: D.B. Lyons, Canadian Forest Service, Laurentian Forestry Centre; emerald ash borer adult: PA Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources; Asian longhorned beetle: Donald Duerr, USDA Forest Service; oak wilt: MO Dept of Conservation.

MOVING FIREWOOD transports tree-killing INSECTS and DISEASES

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.

If you're a camper heading out for a trip — or just getting firewood for your stove — do nature a favor. Don't accidentally transport invasive species.



- ▶ Buy locally harvested firewood.
- ▶ Gather on site where permitted.
- ▶ Ask a park ranger or campground host about where to get local firewood.

The forest will thank you.

Protect your favorite places from invasive pests that hitchhike on firewood!

Learn more at treepests.missouri.edu.

Q: Why shouldn't I move firewood?

A: Tree-killing insects and diseases can hitchhike in firewood, moving much farther with you in a weekend than they could in years on their own. Once in a new location, these invasive pests kill trees—ruining your favorite campground and damaging local forests.

Q: I don't see any bugs or holes in my firewood. Can I move it?

A: It's not a good idea to move firewood, even if it appears to be free of insects and diseases. Many invasive pests hide under the bark. Even tiny insect eggs or microscopic fungal spores may be attached to bark, waiting to be carried to a new location.

Q: Can I bring firewood from far away if I plan to burn it all during my camping trip?

A: No, it's not a good idea to bring wood from more than a few miles away. Most pests are actively emerging from wood during the warm months and moving firewood—even for just a few short days—can easily spread these tree killers to new areas.

Q: I didn't know my firewood could be carrying tree-killing pests! I already brought it to the campground, so what should I do with it now?

A: Have a bonfire, roast some marshmallows, and burn the wood completely upon arriving at your campsite. Don't give pests time to leave your firewood and find new trees to infest!

Q: Is it OK to take firewood camping if it is dry and seasoned?

A: No. Firewood may harbor pests for long periods of time, even when the wood is seasoned. Emerald ash borer, for example, has been known to emerge from ash firewood for at least two years after harvest.

Q: I bought locally-harvested firewood near my campsite but didn't burn it all. What should I do with it?

A: It's best to leave it at the campsite for the next camper or share it with someone staying in that campground. Don't take the wood home with you and risk bringing invasive forest pests to your neighborhood.

Q: If I can't bring my own firewood, what should I do?

A: The best thing you can do is to make firewood plans in advance. Call your campground to find out if they sell locally-harvested firewood or can recommend any nearby suppliers. You can often purchase packaged, heat-treated firewood at gas stations near campgrounds, but it is usually more expensive than locally-sourced firewood.

Q: Are there any firewood quarantines in Missouri?

A: Missouri and several other states have quarantines that restrict the movement of firewood across state or county lines. Moving firewood long distances is highly discouraged and may be illegal in some cases. Check with the Missouri Department of Agriculture at (573) 751-5505 or the US Department of Agriculture's state office at (573) 893-6833 for current details on firewood quarantines.



This product was made possible by funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

What's in your firewood?

THOUSAND CANKERS DISEASE of black walnut is caused by the walnut twig beetle and a fungus it carries to trees. The walnut twig beetle is tiny—about the size of the “1” on a dime—and thousands of them could be hiding in the bark of a single piece of walnut firewood.



The **GYPSY MOTH** is a devastating pest of oaks and other trees. Female moths lay tan patches of eggs on firewood, campers, vehicles, patio furniture—anything outside! When these items are moved to new areas, this pest gets a free ride.

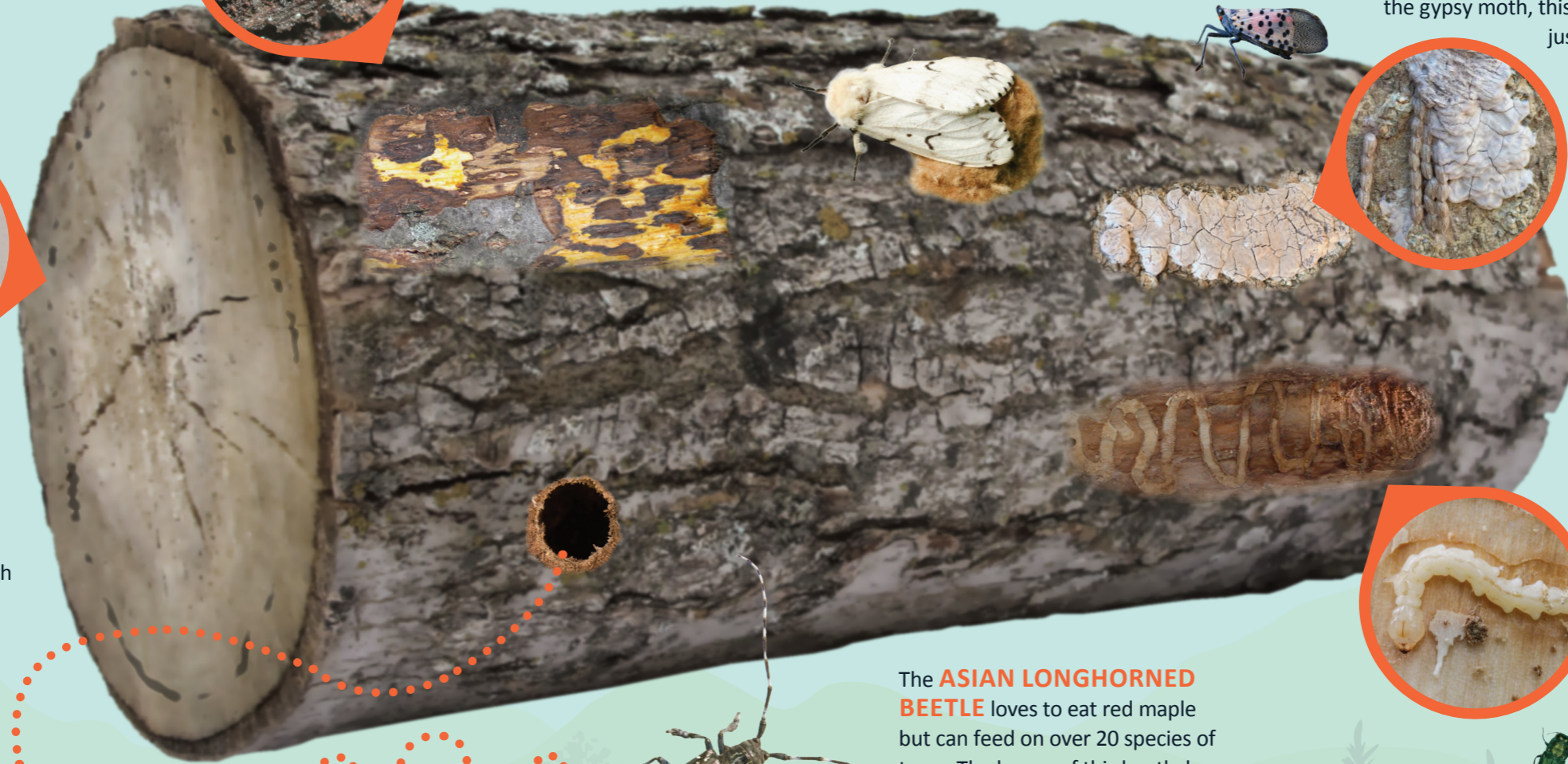
The **SPOTTED LANTERNFLY** sucks sap from dozens of tree and plant species. This pest loves tree-of-heaven but will feed on black walnut, white oak, sycamore, and grape. Like the gypsy moth, this pest lays clusters of eggs on just about any smooth surface, from landscaping stone to firewood!



OAK WILT is a deadly disease of oak trees, especially those in the red oak group. This disease is found in areas throughout Missouri but could easily be brought to your neighborhood or favorite camping spot through infected firewood.



DONTMOVE FIREWOOD.org



The **ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE** loves to eat red maple but can feed on over 20 species of trees. The larvae of this beetle bore into trees, making it an easy pest to transport in firewood.



The **EMERALD ASH BORER**—the infamous killer of ash trees—is already found across much of Missouri. This pest hitched a ride to Missouri in ash firewood. Don't give this bad bug a free ride to another state!

