

Outreach and Updates



August is Tree Check Month

During August, the USDA asks folks to take 10 minutes to check trees for the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). Your organization can help by encouraging the public to proactively check trees this time of year — early detection can lessen the impact from Asian longhorned beetle on the infested area. To learn more about Tree Check Month, check out the engaging [Tree Check Infographic](#), download the popular [ALB Hunt](#) and [Tree Guide Worksheet](#) or visit [Asianlonghornedbeetle.com](#).

Story submitted by Rhonda Santos, Legislative and Public Affairs, USDA APHIS

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How'd it go? Report back from Firewood Awareness Week in Vermont

You might recall in May we featured a story on Vermont's first ever [Firewood Awareness Week](#), which was planned for the weekend of the Memorial Day holiday. We've checked back in with Mollie Klepack of UVM Extension, and she [reports on her guest blog](#), "When the dust settled at the end of the week, 450 ash trees had been tagged at rest areas, campgrounds, and trailheads throughout Vermont; 4 rest area blitzes had been hosted by 13 staff and volunteers; over 18,000 people were reached through social media: and that was just the beginning."

[Read the full success story on our blog »](#)

Congratulations to California's Firewood Task Force!

Did you know that California is the first state to successfully publish its firewood vendors in the new nationally trailblazing Firewood Scout site? Firewood Scout was first started as a Michigan-only effort, and with Michigan's outstanding support, the partnership has now expanded its capacity to prepare for the potential to list firewood vendors in all 50 states. For now, California is the first state to launch—with Wisconsin and Tennessee being the next states preparing their vendor lists and hoping to "go live" sometime this summer.

[Visit Firewood Scout to see it in action »](#)

[Learn more about the effort in California via \[firewood.ca.gov\]\(http://firewood.ca.gov\) »](#)

Want to see what other states are doing? Visit www.dontmovefirewood.org/resources.

Infestations and Regulations

Laurel Wilt reaches Texas

Did you know that laurel wilt has now spread to eight southeastern coastal states, and is poised to destroy vast swathes of trees in the Everglades? This pest/fungal complex is spreading very quickly along its potential range. Learn more by [reading the most current Laurel Wilt synopsis](#), or [view the most recent map](#) to see Laurel wilt's history of spread.

Invasive Flatworm Discovered in Florida

Judging from its biology, the New Guinea Flatworm is very unlikely to be transported on firewood. However, the discovery of this terrestrial invader seems well worth sharing, and its threat to biodiversity is startling. We suggest you either read

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A COLLEAGUE »**

In The News

07/07/15

[How Far is Too Far? Don't move firewood](#)

07/01/15

[Insect decoys could protect ash trees](#)

06/29/15

[An army of tiny Chinese wasps to save Colorado trees](#)

the [recent peer reviewed article](#), or one of the [many popular news articles](#) that followed, whichever you prefer.

Don't Move Firewood Campaign

National Moth Week is in 3...2...1...

The amazing diversity and beauty of native moths are celebrated each year in late July—and anyone that loves native moths is sure to want to learn how to identify non-native moths! We've compiled our most useful gypsy moth related resources, along with select partner resources, on our blog. Use them to celebrate National Moth Week from July 18th to 26th in 2015.

[Learn about National Moth Week \(official site\) »](#)

[View our compiled resources for gypsy moth »](#)

Summer Outreach Materials at Your Fingertips

You are busy, it is hot out, we get it. We've got [a list of easy to download and print materials](#) for summer outreach booths to make your life easier. But wait- do you need something more, like tattoos, frisbees, fans, brochures, DVDs, or water bottles? We've restocked for the summer and can send you whatever you need (within reason).

[See our list of best summer outreach downloads »](#)

[Email us to request outreach materials via mail »](#)

06/29/15

Environmentalists: Get firewood locally this summer (Connecticut)

06/26/15

Dry brush could lead to big fires (California)

06/23/15

Highly invasive flatworm just showed up in the United States

Submit Your Story

This is the Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative newsletter, designed to share information about firewood and invasive forest pests. Do you have a story you want us to include in a future newsletter? Submit your story of 120 words or less.

[Submit Your Story](#)

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