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December 2025 Firewood & Forest Pests Newsletter



*Photo of white spruce (*Picea glauca*) in winter by Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.
Did you know? Forest pests can spread in Christmas trees and other holiday greenery - disposing of these materials by municipal composting is the responsible choice to protect local trees!*

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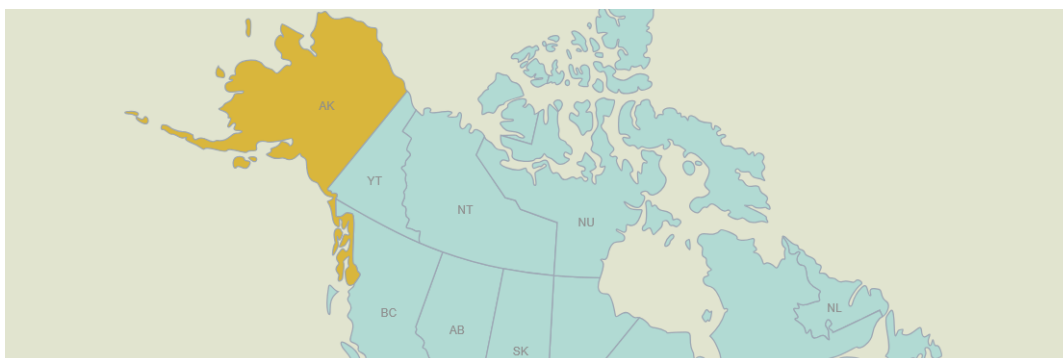
Holiday Greenery Best Practices

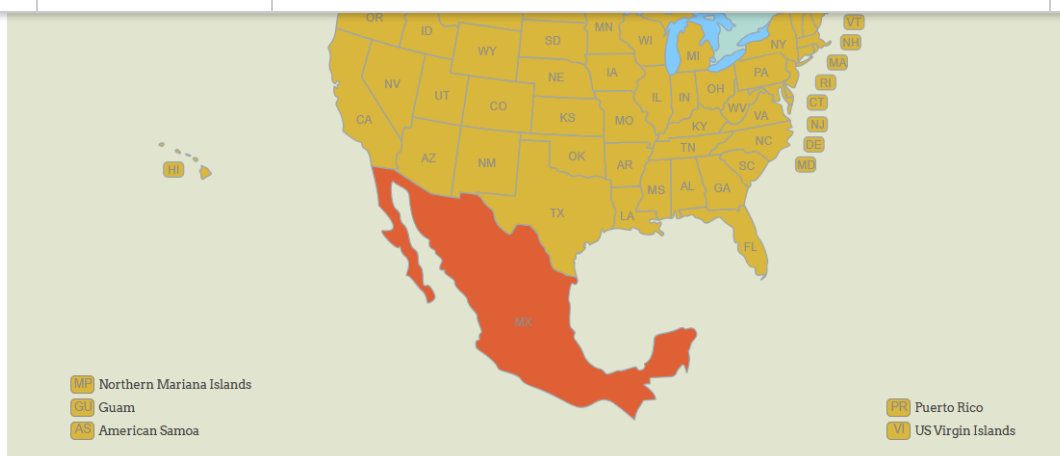
There's still time to dish out your holiday greenery outreach. We love real Christmas trees, wreathes, and other holiday greenery, but they all can come with a risk! Check our [Holiday Greenery](#) page for useful tips and outreach ideas that help protect against spreading hitchhiker forest pests this holiday season. The clean up is just as important; it's great to have some posts prepped to remind folks about safe disposal options for their Christmas trees, garlands, and wreathes *after* the holidays as well! Municipal composting is an excellent choice!

[DMF Holiday Greenery Page >>](#)

Happy Holidays!

Thank you to all who helped us spread the word about forest pests and the firewood pathway during 2025! Many of you used our graphics and logos, took up our suggestions, shared our social media posts, and/or made some of your own. We had a great turn out for our EAB Awareness Week webinar series back in May and record breaking webinar attendance in October for Firewood Month. Many of you reached out about our [outreach material available in bulk](#) for your own outreach purposes and events. We can't thank you enough for all your efforts! Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!!



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Firewood Map Being Updated Now

The staff at Don't Move Firewood try very hard to keep our Firewood Map up to date and as accurate as possible - which can be tough in an ever changing environment of infestations and regulations! **Did you know that these days our Firewood Map is constantly being “mined” (read and used) by search engine AI tools to generate accurate answers to firewood and forest pest questions?** This is why our annual revision process, on top of periodic updates, is so incredibly important to maintaining correct and visible firewood information. The accuracy of this review is hugely helped when YOU - whether volunteer, state, provincial, local, tribal, or federal - chime in. So, if you know of a new regulation or an important resource, link, or infestation that is not yet represented on your state or provincial page, please [let us know!!](#)

[See our Firewood Map here >>](#)

Study Shows Fungi Kills EAB

New research out of University of Minnesota shows several species of fungi effectively killed emerald ash borer (EAB) adults. An autodissemination device successfully infected the beetles which then are able to spread the fungi to others during mating. The four most successful parasitic fungi are now being tested in autodissemination devices at various Minnesota state parks and forests as

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include a whole portfolio of strategies- including host tree resistance, biological control organisms, silvicultural practices, and fungal pathogens like these.

[Read the research brief here >>](#)

[Read the the study here >>](#)

EAB Detected in Mississippi

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has, unfortunately, finally been found for the first time in Mississippi. It has been confirmed by Mississippi Forestry Commission after detection in Issaquena County on the western edge of the state across the river from neighboring Louisiana's East Carroll Parish (which saw it's EAB first detection in 2023.) Mississippi based extension specialists are sounding the alarm about firewood movement and encouraging the public to burn the wood from any dead ash trees on-site rather than transporting it.

[See the Press Release here >>](#)

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Forest Pests In the News

[A decade of the southern pine beetle has left the Pine Barrens primed for fire Greater Long Island, December 15, 2025](#)

[Governor Polis shares information on pine beetle outbreak, announces new task](#)

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[Protecting mussels, tracking progress and a new initiative NotMISpecies webinars return in January](#)

MI Invasive Speices, December 09, 2025

[Trappers, Educators Protect Against Invasive Beetle \(ALB, VT\)](#)

The Herald, December 04, 2025

[Cornell ash trees aim to beat back borer insects \(EAB\)](#)

Cornell Chronicle, November 20, 2025

[It's time to deck the halls, but be careful with what is in the holly](#)

Indy Star, November 25, 2025

[Specialist team help manage shot-hole borer response \(PSHB\)](#)

WA Government, November 14, 2025

[Sudden oak death pathogen detected for the first time in Minnesota](#)

MITPPC, November 11, 2025

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This newsletter is produced by staff of The Nature Conservancy's Forest Pest and Pathogen Program.

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