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January 2026 Firewood & Forest Pests Newsletter



Photo of spotted lanternfly egg masses laid on mixed deciduous trees near grapevines by Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org. Did you know? Spotted lanternfly egg masses can be found on virtually all outdoor items, and they tend to blend in particularly well with gray/brown bark. This makes firewood a high risk for spreading this hitchhiker pest!

**DON'T MOVE
FIREWOOD.org**

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Many Pests Overwinter on or in Wood:

It's pretty darn cold and...wintery...in much of the US and Canada, which may make it seem like a poor time to remind folks of the risks of traveling with firewood. Who's camping in this? Other than the areas with milder, weather - plenty of folks are still using wood to heat up their homes and cabins, making firewood outreach a year-round necessity even in cold places. Also, some folks may need a reminder that the firewood stored on their property from last year's camping season may STILL HAVE BUGS IN IT. Whether it be the insects themselves sheltered beneath the bark, or cryptic egg masses blending in on top - winter is no match for the resilience of many invasive tree pests. Keep up the good work!

[Find more in our Frequently Asked Questions >>](#)

DMF Hiring 6 Month Position

To reduce the firewood-associated spread of EAB and other forest pests in the Pacific Northwest, the Don't Move Firewood team at The Nature Conservancy is adding a temporary (6 month) position in 2026 to help us broaden and strengthen our outreach presence in this region. For more details and to apply, click [here](#). Applications must be received by COB January 26, 2026 to be considered.

[Learn more & Apply Here >>](#)



February 23 - 27, 2026

**Have you
registered for a**

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Upcoming NISAW Events

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) is coming up soon! The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) has some excellent webinars and other events lined up this year during the week of February 23 - 27, 2026. The theme this year is “*Defending Our Health by Stopping the Spread*”. Learn how you can participate and download the toolkit [here](#), and be sure to register for the webinars!

Wednesday January 28, 2026 @ 1:00 - 2:30pm CST

Rethinking Invasive Species Communication: Updates from National Workshops and Research

[Register Here](#)

Wednesday February 18, 2026 @ 1:00 - 2:00pm CST

Shaping Public Policy: Advocacy in Action

[Register Here](#)

Monday February 23, 2026 @ 1:00 - 3:00pm CST

USGS Invasive Species Science: Innovation for a Healthy Nation

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday February 24, 2026 @ 1:00 - 2:00pm CST

Alberta Wild Boar Control Program: Challenges and Successes

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Wednesday February 25, 2026 @ 1:00 - 2:00pm CST

Current Situation of the New World Screwworm in Mexico

[Register Here](#)

Thursday February 26, 2026 @ 1:00 - 2:00pm CST

The Surprising Intersection of Marine Biosecurity and Public Health

[Register Here](#)

Friday February 27, 2026 @ 1:00 - 2:00pm CST

Invasive Species Threaten American Food Security

[Register Here](#)



Pathways of Spread

Invasive Species Awareness Week
Feb. 23 - Mar. 1 #InvSpWk

 Trail Use	 Movement of Firewood
 Boating and Fishing	 Horticulture
 E-commerce	 Shipping and Ballast Water
 Pet Release	Canals and

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Upcoming ISAW in Canada

Canada's Invasive Species Centre is gearing up for Invasive Species Awareness Week 2026 which is February 23 - March 1 2026. With many graphics available for free download, ISC makes it easy to participate in this awesome outreach initiative. Learn how you can help and access their toolkit now so you are prepped and ready to go come end of February!

[Learn more about ISAW >>](#)

[Access their toolkit >>](#)

Michigan & Washington Propose Firewood Quarantines

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDARD) has officially proposed an exterior firewood quarantine! All firewood from outside the state would be regulated regardless of species unless certified, heat-treated to 60°C (140°F) for 60 minutes. MDARD is currently inviting comments on their proposed firewood quarantine via an online survey, and all must be submitted by Monday, February 9, 2026.

The state of Washington is on a similar path with their own exterior firewood quarantine under the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). The heat-treatment standards for the Washington firewood quarantine are higher at 71°C (160°F) for at least 60 minutes or receive an equivalent WSDA-approved treatment and must display the statement "Approved Pest Free". Comments are welcome and must be submitted by February 11, 2026.

[Read more about the MI Firewood Quarantine here >>](#)

[More on the WA Firewood Quarantine here >>](#)

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Forest Pests In the News

[Sugar rush: Spotted lanternfly honeydew attracts variety of fellow insects](#)
Entomology Today, January 21, 2026

[NM Forestry Division: Bark beetle tree mortality more than doubled for second consecutive year](#)
Albuquerque Journal, January 11, 2026

[This invasive wasp is wreaking havoc on elms in North America - and the damage may soon spread to other trees](#)
Smithsonian magazine, January 13, 2026

[Volunteers sough for 'blitz' to protect Ventura County oaks from destructive beetle](#)
UCANR, January 6, 2026

[Invasive emerald ash borer confirmed in Robertson County](#)
TN Dept. of Ag., December 23, 2025

[Battling a voracious beetle in the invasive species capital of the world](#)
Honolulu Civil Beat., December 22, 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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