



## What to do.

If you suspect you have an exotic invasive pest or think you have an infestation, please contact the Clemson University Department of Plant Industry or your local Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service office.

For more information on invasive species, visit our website or find us on social media.



A partnership to protect your agricultural & natural resources.

## Who we are. What we do.

The Department of Plant Industry, a part of Regulatory Services in Clemson University's Public Service and Agriculture, helps prevent the introduction of new plant pests into South Carolina as well as the spread of existing plant pests to non-infested areas.

Plant pest surveys, inspections, quarantines, control and eradication programs are among the tools used to safeguard the state's agricultural and natural resources.

We help horticultural businesses - such as nurseries, greenhouse growers, transplant growers and turf grass producers - as well as farmers, agricultural industries and South Carolina consumers in shipping plant material intrastate, interstate and internationally.

Inspections and certification services help ensure that plants are pest-free, which is essential for movement of plant material to other states and foreign countries.

**Department of Plant Industry**  
511 Westinghouse Rd.  
Pendleton SC 29670

Phone: 864-646-2140

[www.clemson.edu/invasives](http://www.clemson.edu/invasives)

**CLEMSON**  
PUBLIC SERVICE AND AGRICULTURE

Clemson University

# Exotic Invasive Species



**CLEMSON**  
PUBLIC SERVICE AND AGRICULTURE

[www.clemson.edu/invasives](http://www.clemson.edu/invasives)

## What is an exotic invasive?

An *exotic invasive species* is defined as a non-native species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to the economy, the environment, or to human health.



*Non-native* can refer to species from other countries, regions, states, ecosystems or even local habitats. *Invasive* species have certain characteristics that enable them to rapidly spread and out-compete native species for resources. They are able to reproduce quickly, profusely and unchecked without the pests and predators of their natural environment to help restrict and control growth and range.

Invasive species can be thought of as biological pollutants, reducing plant biodiversity and severely threatening the stability and sustainability of ecosystems. Most recent estimates that 42% of the nation's endangered and threatened species have declined as a result of encroaching exotic invasives. The direct cost of invasive species to the American economy is estimated at \$138 billion per year.

## Inspect to protect.

Managing invasive species is challenging and complicated. The most effective management strategy is preventing potentially invasive species from entering an area. Careful monitoring can detect a pest before it becomes established and provide a rapid response to eradicate or control the pest and help to reduce environmental and economic impacts. This requires the awareness, participation and support of everyone in South Carolina.

Our inspectors visually survey and trap for various invasive plant pests throughout the state in nurseries, orchards, and natural areas. Most of the regulated pests are "of concern," but not currently established in South Carolina. When a pest is found, Clemson works with the public and professionals to develop and implement an eradication program.



## Partner to protect.

Clemson Invasive Species Program collaborates with various agencies and programs to share information and ensure scientific accuracy.



The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey program conducts science-based national and state surveys targeted at specific exotic plant pests, diseases, and weeds identified as threats to U.S. agriculture and/or the environment. CAPS assesses threats, provides identification and sampling protocol, survey materials, database reporting of high-quality data, and notification of pest detections.

The Plant Problem Clinic provides diagnoses for plant problems, which include diseases, nematodes, weeds, and insect pests of plants. Clemson also runs the Molecular Plant Pathogen Detection Lab to diagnose pests using PCR and other techniques. The PPC and MPPD diagnose regulatory samples for official data collection. If needed, identifications are confirmed by USDA-APHIS specialists.



Clemson's DPI inspectors conduct nursery inspections to certify South Carolina nurseries annually. This service ensures healthy, pest-free products to our residents and other dealers. Because the horticulture industry is a major pathway for invasive plants and plant pests, the nursery survey is critical to protecting both commercial and natural resources.