BE ALERT:
INVASIVE PESTS TRAVEL IN WOOD PACKING MATERIAL

STOP THE SPREAD

Invasive species threaten our agricultural and natural resources, causing billions of dollars in damage annually. Invasive forest pests such as emerald ash borers, Asian longhorned beetle and Asian gypsy moth kill trees in both natural and residential landscapes. These devastations disrupt the ecosystem, cause losses in timber industries, and cost landowners money to remove and replace infested trees.

Wood packing material (WPM) poses a high risk of introducing invasive wood-boring insects because it is often made of raw wood and travels across the globe. WPM includes wooden boxes, pallets, crates and even block and bracing. To reduce the risk of pest introduction, wood packing material is regulated and must be treated and certified to enter the United States. You can help protect our resources by inspecting WPM for signs of invasive pests.

REPORT AND PROTECT

Report noncompliant wood packing material and any suspect invasive species found in imported cargo shipments to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist at:

The South Carolina Pest Awareness and Risk Assessment Committee is comprised of regulatory agencies working to protect our state’s agricultural and natural resources from invasive species.

KNOW THE LAW

A valid International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) logo should be marked on each piece of wood packing material. Compliant wood packing material has a legible IPPC logo with the country code, facility number and treatment type (HT or MB) as shown below:

Regulations also require wood packing material to be free of pests, signs of pests, and bark.

KNOW THE SIGNS

Look for signs of insect activity in or on wood packing material.

Adult insects may be large or small. In the picture at right, you can see a tiny adult bark beetle as well as the tunnels eaten into the bark.

Insect larvae vary in size, but are usually colorless and wingless, with no apparent legs. The Cerambicid larva shown to the left is about an inch long. Look for eggs or egg sacs that may contain live insects.

Other signs of pest activity include exit holes and frass, which appears to be wood shavings or sawdust.

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