

Alien invasive
species damage parks, food
crops, recreational lands,
waterways, and more...

and day by day **they get
CLOSER.**

Will
YOU spot the
invasive
alien?





Learn more about invasive alien species before they destroy your favorite habitat.

Species which are non-native (invasive or alien) to Montana interfere and often destroy native plants, wildlife and livestock habitat, forests, waterways, and food crops. These species, which may not harm the environment in their native area, can cause

destruction and major problems when introduced to a new environment. Invasive alien species are seeking hosts, like you, who will unknowingly pick them up while you travel and give them a free ride. Once they have landed in your area they will start to multiply and will spread disease, eat with a vengeance, and begin a path of destruction.

Invasive species may be insects, nematodes, noxious weeds, amphibians, crustaceans, mollusks, mammals, and more! Over the past couple hundred years many plants, insects, and animals have been introduced into the U.S. Not all of them become invasive and push aside native varieties, but when they do become invasive it can be devastating for the environment, economy, and even affect human health.

APHIS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service works around the clock, 7 days a week to inspect incoming shipments to the U.S. for alien invaders. These aliens use every trick in the book to hitch a ride to a new land; some have been spotted for sale on the internet or been brought in as pets. Step 1 is to learn about potential invasive alien invaders for your area. This education project has been developed to: raise awareness of invasive alien species, arm you with tools for identification of invasive alien species, and to inform you where to report your findings.

-  Invasive species can easily be transported on living plants or fresh produce such as fruit and plants.
-  Many pests can be found in recently killed plant material such as firewood, lumber, and wood packing materials. Avoid long-range movement of these materials to help slow the spread of invasive species.
-  Purchase only certified pest-free nursery stock (like trees and shrubs) whenever possible.
-  Avoid bringing alien species into your area at all costs! (APHIS, 2015)

Report any sightings of invasive species to your local Extension office.

Recommended companion resources:

APHIS - Leave Hungry Pests Behind <http://www.hungrypests.com/>
Play, Clean, Go - Stop Invasive Species In Your Tracks <http://www.playcleango.org/>
Invasive and Exotic Species of North America <http://www.invasive.org/>