

Moving Firewood Transports Insects and Diseases

Little Critters Big Threat

Many invasive forest insects and tree diseases can harbor in untreated firewood. These destructive pests may be hiding **on** the wood, **in** the wood, or **underneath** the bark. Transporting firewood can unintentionally introduce and ultimately spread unwanted pests into new areas.



Gypsy Moth

One of the most destructive pests of trees and shrubs, gypsy moth caterpillars attack hardwoods, especially oaks. By gorging on the leaves, the insect defoliates and weakens the tree, potentially causing death. Dispersal occurs when people transport gypsy moth eggs from infested areas on items such as firewood. Since its introduction into Massachusetts in 1869, this insect is now in several Eastern states and continues to spread.

Laurel Wilt Disease

Initiated by the redbay ambrosia beetle, this disease infects trees in the laurel family, especially native redbay and sassafras. Adult beetles bore into the tree, feeding and creating galleries, spreading a deadly fungus. Eventually, the flow of water and nutrients is disrupted, causing mortality. First detected in Georgia in 2002, this disease now exists in five other states, including Alabama.



Emerald Ash Borer

As the name suggests, this insect attacks ash trees. The larvae of this insect bore into the tree, feeding and creating galleries under the bark. This disrupts the flow of water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree. Since its introduction in Michigan in 2002, this insect has spread to several other states, including Alabama.

DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD



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Funded in part by the U.S. Forest Service

Images courtesy of Bugwood.org and CAES

Transports Tree-Killing Diseases

Ash Borer

As the name implies, the ash borer attacks ash trees. The larvae of the borer bore into the wood of the tree and creating galleries beneath the bark. This action disrupts the flow of water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree. Since its detection in 2002, this disease has spread to 14 other states including Tennessee.

Thousand Cankers Disease

Initiated by the walnut twig beetle, this disease infects walnut trees. Highly susceptible, the black walnut tree usually dies from the disease. When adult beetles bore into the tree creating galleries, a deadly fungus is introduced. The fungus causes numerous cankers beneath the bark, eventually girdling the branches, disrupting the flow of water and nutrients. Since 2010, this disease has spread to several Eastern states including Tennessee.



Asian Longhorned Beetle

The Asian longhorned beetle attacks several hardwood trees, especially maples, birches, and elms. The larvae bore into the tree, feeding on wood beneath the bark, eventually disrupting the flow of water and nutrients causing some trees to die. First detected in New York in 1996, there are now scattered infestations in three other states.

You Can Help!

- Leave your firewood at home.
- Don't transport firewood long distances.
- Buy firewood from local vendors near your campsite.
- Burn all of your wood before leaving.



MOVE FIREWOOD!