

Activity 11: Invasive Species Investigation

Some of our most serious insect pests (e.g., Japanese Beetle, Gypsy Moth, Hessian Fly, Emerald Ash Borer) became invasive after being brought to the United States accidentally from other countries. The federal government defines invasive species as "an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." Invasive species can cause major problems because they negatively impact native species either by eating them, competing with them, interbreeding with them, or introducing pathogens and parasites that sicken or kill them. Invasive species are a form of biological pollutants, with potentially severe impacts on the ecosystems they inhabit.



Investigate Invasives Tool Kit

Computer access for research. To help you get started, websites for the following resources may be accessed at www.4-H.org/curriculum/entomology:

NAPIS - Pest Tracker

The National Invasive Species Council

USDA - National Invasive Species Information Center

The Nature Conservancy

National Biological Information Infrastructure administered by the Biological Informatics office of the U.S. Geological Survey

USDA APHIS Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program

Sea Grant Nonindigenous Species

- Choose five insects from the Invasive Species List to investigate.

- Answer the following questions for each insect:
 - What is its scientific name?
 - Where did it originate?
 - What are its native host species?
 - How did it get to the United States?
 - Where is it found now (geographical extent)?
 - Why is it a problem (what damage does it do)?
 - What are the signs that this pest is in a particular area?
 - Who is trying to deal with this insect and what control methods are being used?
- Summarize your findings for the five insects you chose by answering the following questions:
 - Where did these insects originate (in general)?
 - How did they get to the United States?
 - What areas of the United States have a problem with these insects (geographical extent)?
 - What damage do these insects cause?
 - Who is trying to deal with these invasive insects and what control methods are used?

Invasive Species List

- Asian Long-horned Beetle
- Bagworm
- Boll Weevil
- Colorado Potato Beetle
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Granulate Ambrosia beetle
- Gypsy Moth
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
- Pine Shoot Beetle
- Potato Weevil
- Sirex Woodwasp
- Soybean Aphid

