

Preparing for Invasive Species Outbreaks:

A Workbook for State Foresters



NASF
Forest Health Protection Committee
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Purpose of This Workbook

This workbook provides general guidelines and questions you'll likely need to answer following detection of an invasive species. The unique organizational structure in each state may require some detective work to get the answers to these questions. But getting ready now will facilitate a rapid response when you need one.

To be prepared you will need a plan to address five steps:

- 1) Develop a network for gathering advance information.
- 2) Locate resources for pest detection and identification.
- 3) Inform authorities of detection.
- 4) Identify partners.
- 5) Develop an interagency action team to plan and coordinate rapid response.

An "Invasive Species" is defined as a species that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health (Executive Order 13112).



Follow the steps marked in red now.
You will be better prepared for action when invasive species arrive.

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Cover photo by Kenneth R. Law, USDA-APHIS, PPQ

STEP ONE: Develop a network for gathering advance information.

- 1) Plug into sources of information about invasive species so you will learn:
 - a. What to plan for
 - b. How other states are responding
 - c. How well these systems are working for agriculture.

Key Sources

NAPPO New Pest Alerts www.nappp.org
State and Regional Pest Plant Councils
Nat'l Agric Pest Info System www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis
www.uga.bugwood.org
www.exoticforestpests.org
www.invasivespecies.gov
USDA-FS FHM www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/fhm/index.htm

- 2) Set up a system to interact regularly with agencies in your state who usually respond to such emergencies. Let them know of your concern regarding invasive pests in forest resources.

Agency	Name	Contact information
APHIS State Plant Health Director *		
State Plant Regulatory Officer		
USDA-FS Forest Health Protection		

* Contact info can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/travel/aqi_pop/sphdlist.html

- 3) Consider whether you want to incorporate surveillance for new invasives in your current forest pest detection system. Who will do it? What training do they need? Where should they be looking in your state (what are likely pathways for introductions?)

STEP TWO: Locate resources for pest detection and identification.

Develop a procedure to get suspect pests identified, through discussions with these regulators. They have connections with the best taxonomic resources within and outside the state. You may find working through these regulators will facilitate follow-up reporting. Or you can develop your own list of taxonomic advisors. They may need to get official confirmation of their identification later.

Taxon	Specialist	Contact information

STEP THREE: Inform the proper authorities.

The authority to treat or require treatment of private land most often rests in the State Plant Regulatory Officer, or the Dept. of Agriculture (usually one and the same). Also, since it is far easier to eradicate pests under voluntary compliance, plan ways to effectively approach concerned landowners.

Agency	Name	Contact information
APHIS State Plant Health Director	(see step one)	
State Plant Regulatory Officer	(see step one)	
APHIS	New Pest Advisory Group	npag@aphis.usda.gov

STEP FOUR: Identify partners.

Many state agencies and groups are involved in responding to invasive pests. You should develop working relations with these groups now.

Taxon	Agency	Contact person	Contact information
Weeds	State DNR		
	Regional Exotic Pest Plant Council		
	State Exotic Pest Plant Council		
Insects & Diseases	USDA Forest Service FHP		
Aquatics	Fish & Wildlife		
Animals	Dept. Natural Resources		
	State Parks		
	Municipalities		

STEP FIVE: Develop a strategy for rapid response.

Get acquainted with colleagues who will decide what actions are to be taken once an infestation is detected, identified, and confirmed. Discuss what options, including treatments, would be available and appropriate under possible scenarios. Consider developing an interagency coordinating team or other mechanism that will develop long-term plans and coordinate rapid responses.

Does your state have sufficient emergency powers to counteract outbreaks of invasive pests that may quickly cause widespread damage?

What does your state forestry agency have to offer with respect to technical and logistical tools?

How will the State handle funding and staffing impacts imposed by an invasive species? What outside funding sources are available? Are there cost share requirements?

Agency	Name	Contact Information	State Lands	Private Lands

Your response must comply with all applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and policies before action can be taken. Identify the regulations that might impact management options (e.g. NEPA, historic preservation laws, TES laws, NPDES permits) and identify contacts who can help achieve compliance. Include them in your planning team.

Which agencies and stakeholders will have to be consulted:

- If the invasive species has commercial, recreational or other special value?
- If the invasive species is located in threatened or endangered species habitat?
- Other special circumstances?

Agency	Name	Contact information

Develop a general action plan, and specific ones for immediate threats. Examples can be seen at the following websites:

www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds/weedsjan2002-pub.pdf

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/Plans/>

www.ces.ncsu.edu/Insects/Bees/ahbactionplan2001.pdf

<http://www.ipmcenters.org/NewsAlerts/soybeanrust/ActionPlan.pdf>

List people, agencies or elected officials who need to be briefed now regarding invasive species:

Name	Office	Contact information

What information needs to be disseminated? By what means, using what tools?

What information products such as brochures, posters and videos need to be developed? Many publications on these topics have been produced by other organizations. Your networking efforts will pay dividends here.

Develop an ongoing relationship with media contacts interested in forest issues. Pool contact lists with USDA-FS and APHIS legislative affairs officers. Keep your list handy in case of an invasive pest outbreak.

Name	Role	Contact information



For more information contact:
 USDA Forest Service
 Forest Health Protection
 1601 N. Kent St., RPC-7
 Arlington, VA 22209
 703-605-5344

