

What Is an Invasive Species?

An invasive species is a non-native species that causes more harm than good to the environment, economy, or to human and animal health. Many of the invasives that are in our ecosystems came here through globalized trade, which provides a vector for insects to come over through crops, products, and through other means of hitchhiking.



Why You Should Be Concerned

Invasive species affect all New Yorkers, but many have a special impact on farmers. Some of these plants can affect crop production and some can also damage livestock health. As 50% of the Capital-Mohawk region's land is devoted to agriculture, getting the word out about these insects is of paramount importance to the region's overall ecological and economic health.



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Invasive Insects of the Capital Region



*Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Saratoga County &
Capital/Mohawk PRISM
Partnership for Regional Invasive Species
Management*

Insect Control Methods on Farms

- **Cultural:** Technique of maintaining field conditions so that insects are less likely to establish or increase in numbers (crop rotation, prompt harvesting of fruit, pruning ... etc.)
- **Biological:** Process of using natural enemies to control the spread of an invasive species (beneficial bug predators... etc.)
- **Chemical:** The use of chemical insecticides to knock back pest populations
- **Preventative:** Ways to prevent pests from entering farm, pasture, or greenhouse (vinegar traps, bug netting over gardens... etc.)

Cornell IPM Information: <https://nysipm.cornell.edu/environment/invasive-species-exotic-pests>

NYS Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Hotline: 1-866-640-0652

Capital/Mohawk PRISM (Terrestrial Species): sb685@cornell.edu

Photo ID	Insect	Threat?
	Spotted Wing Drosophila <i>Drosophila suzukii</i>	Male fruit fly has distinctive spotted wing. Females target soft fruit like berries and cherries to lay eggs. Clean pick ripe fruit to prevent fruit falling to the ground. Weekly spraying may be needed
	Emerald Ash Borer <i>Agrilus planipennis</i>	Found across New York, kills infected trees in 2-4 years. Can spread through untreated firewood. Metallic green.
	Hemlock Woolly Adelgid <i>Adelges tsugae</i>	HWA is originally from China where it infected Chinese Hemlocks. Now it threatens New York and has been reported as far as the Adirondacks. Report sightings of this pest to the DEC.
	Allium Leaf Miner <i>Phytomyza gymnostoma</i>	This extremely new invader targets leeks, onions, and garlic. The adult is a grey/black fly with a yellow head. It's reddish pupa can be found in leeks in the fall.
	Gypsy Moth <i>Lymantria dispar asiatica</i>	One of the most well-known invasive insects, gypsy moths can completely defoliate trees when their population density is high enough. They're not picky either, feeding on over 500 species. Aerial spraying for this pest occurs in the spring and early summer when the caterpillars are at their height.

Photo ID	Insect	Threat?
	Southern Pine Beetle <i>Dendroctonus frontalis</i>	Native to the south but has spread to Long Island from NJ, has been steadily moving north in recent years. Enters trees and then creates tunnels underneath the bark.
	Brown Marmorated Stink-Bug <i>Halyomorpha halys</i>	Agricultural pest that can reduce crop value as well as potentially spread plant pathogens. This insect is a home invader and may be found overwintering in heated structures. This insect's population has exploded recently.
	Asian Longhorned Beetle <i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	Originated in China and Korea, this 1.5 inch beetle is very distinctive, Currently it only infests areas directly surrounding NYC, but threatens a variety of hardwood species and if it moves into our region it could devastate trees of many
	European Fire Ant <i>Myrmica rubra</i>	The only reported population of this ant in the US are in the Northeast. They can deliver painful stings that can end up in allergic reactions. Populations are found primarily around water where it remains humid.