

# Insects and Diseases Threaten Your Wood Supplies

North America's forests are under attack by both native and non-native insects and diseases. These pests spread when people move wood long distances - creating new infestations of these damaging pests. New outbreaks can kill trees by the thousands, cost millions of dollars to control, and threaten the very trees that you depend on for your woodworking needs. Without healthy trees and forests, our nation's forestry jobs, wildlife habitats, and clean water are at risk.

## *What can woodworkers and woodturners do to help?*

### **Learn which types of wood are most affected**

Ashes, birches, black walnut, maples, oaks, pines and redbay are of greatest concern.

*Please see reverse to learn more about each of these types of wood.*

### **Buy wood locally whenever possible**

Wood potentially contaminated by insects and diseases from other states poses the greatest threat to forest health. Buying wood locally - preferably from within your home state - minimizes these risks.

### **If you must move wood long distances or across state lines, understand and comply with quarantines and regulations**

Check with your state or province's plant health regulators (usually, the Department of Agriculture) either before you travel, or before you order wood stock from a remote dealer.

Sadly, because pests often infest a group of trees for years before they are detected, **even wood from areas not under quarantine can pose a very real risk to the health of trees** in your area. When purchasing wood that is not under regulation or quarantine, it is best to use kiln dried wood, wood that has been air dried for a minimum of three years, or wood with no bark remaining and that has been visually inspected for the presence of diseases or pests. These measures will reduce the risk of moving pests when compared to purchasing green wood. Because the insects and diseases described here are often found beneath the bark - sometimes hidden quite deep in the wood - simply debarking the wood before moving it does not necessarily prevent pests from spreading.

Various state and federal quarantines apply to many of these pests - and to other pests not described here. Consult regulators and best management practices provided on reputable websites specific to each pest and wood type (see over), find state law and regulation summaries at [www.nationalplantboard.org/laws/](http://www.nationalplantboard.org/laws/) or learn about federal domestic quarantines by visiting [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/)

*This flyer was endorsed in May 2012 by the following organizations:*

American Association of Woodturners • American Nursery and Landscape Association • Chicago Bureau of Forestry •  
International Society of Wood Collectors • National Association of State Foresters • National Plant Board •  
The Nature Conservancy • Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources •  
Society of American Florists • Society of Municipal Arborists • The Walnut Council

For more information about these and other tree-killing pests, go to the Gallery of Pests [www.dontmovefirewood.org/gallery-of-pests](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/gallery-of-pests)  
State law and regulation summaries can be found on the National Plant Board Website, [www.nationalplantboard.org/laws/](http://www.nationalplantboard.org/laws/)  
Questions? Email [info@continentalforestdialogue.org](mailto:info@continentalforestdialogue.org)

## Walnut

**Black walnut** is under threat from thousand cankers disease, an insect/fungus complex caused by the fungus *Geosmithia morbida* and vectored by the walnut twig beetle. These beetles are too small to be seen easily. They build up huge numbers: ten thousand live beetles in a single log 18 inches long by 6 inches in diameter.

There is no federal quarantine regulating movement of walnut wood to contain thousand cankers disease. However, 14 states currently regulate Walnut: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Virginia.

Thousand cankers disease is already present in city trees in the Pacific and Rocky Mountain states and in trees near Knoxville, Tennessee; Richmond, Virginia; and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Learn more at [www.thousandcankersdisease.net](http://www.thousandcankersdisease.net)

## Redbay

**Redbay** is a small tree which grows in lowland areas of the Southeast. The introduced laurel wilt disease has killed countless redbay stands from South Carolina to Florida. Smaller outbreaks have been detected in Alabama, Mississippi, and North Carolina.

It is important to prevent spread of laurel wilt to Texas, Mexico, or Central America; or to the West coast. Vulnerable species in California include **avocadoes** and **California bay laurel** (also called **Oregon myrtle**).

No federal or state quarantines apply to this disease. Visit [www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/laurelwilt/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/laurelwilt/)

## Maple, birch, and many other hardwoods

**Maple, birch** and 18 other genera of hardwood trees are killed by the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). The ALB is known to be in several U.S. areas and Toronto, Canada. The largest outbreaks are in Worcester, Massachusetts and Clermont County, Ohio.

U.S. and Canadian federal quarantine regulations govern interstate or international movement of host species from the quarantine zones; Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Ontario have state quarantines. Visit [www.beetlebusters.info](http://www.beetlebusters.info)

## Ash

All North American **ash** trees are threatened by the emerald ash borer. This small green beetle is established across the Midwest, much of the East and into the South, and also the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Federal quarantines restrict interstate movement of ash wood in many areas. Several states restrict movement of ash wood within state boundaries. To learn more about federal quarantines on ash, visit [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

## Oak Trees in California and Oregon

Tens of thousands of oak trees in San Diego County, California have been killed by the goldspotted oak borer. Trees primarily affected are **coast live oak**, **California black oak**, and **canyon live oak**. In Northern California and Southern Oregon, a disease named Sudden Oak Death is killing **tanoak**, **coast live oak**, **Shreve's oak**, **California bay laurel**, **California black oak**, and **canyon live oak**.

No federal or state quarantines apply to goldspotted oak borer, but movement of oak from Southern California could spread this insect. Quarantines and regulations do apply to oaks and more than 100 other species, including **madrone**, **bigleaf maple**, and **California bay laurel** that can be infected by Sudden Oak Death. Learn more about these threats to oaks at [www.gsob.org](http://www.gsob.org) and [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org)

## Pine

More than a dozen insects that attack **pin**es have been introduced to North America. Among the many that live beneath the bark, two are thought to pose the greatest risk: *Sirex* woodwasp and Mediterranean pine engraver beetle. The *Sirex* woodwasp is established across much of New York State, northern Pennsylvania, and parts of Ontario, Michigan, and Vermont. The Mediterranean pine engraver beetle is found in the California Central Valley. In addition, the native mountain pine beetle is rapidly killing pines throughout western U.S. and Canada.

Various state and federal quarantines apply to these pests, depending on their current status and extent of infestation. For instance, North Carolina has a quarantine on pine because of concerns about *Sirex* woodwasp. Check with state or provincial authorities before moving pine.