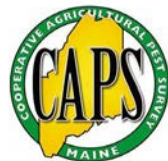




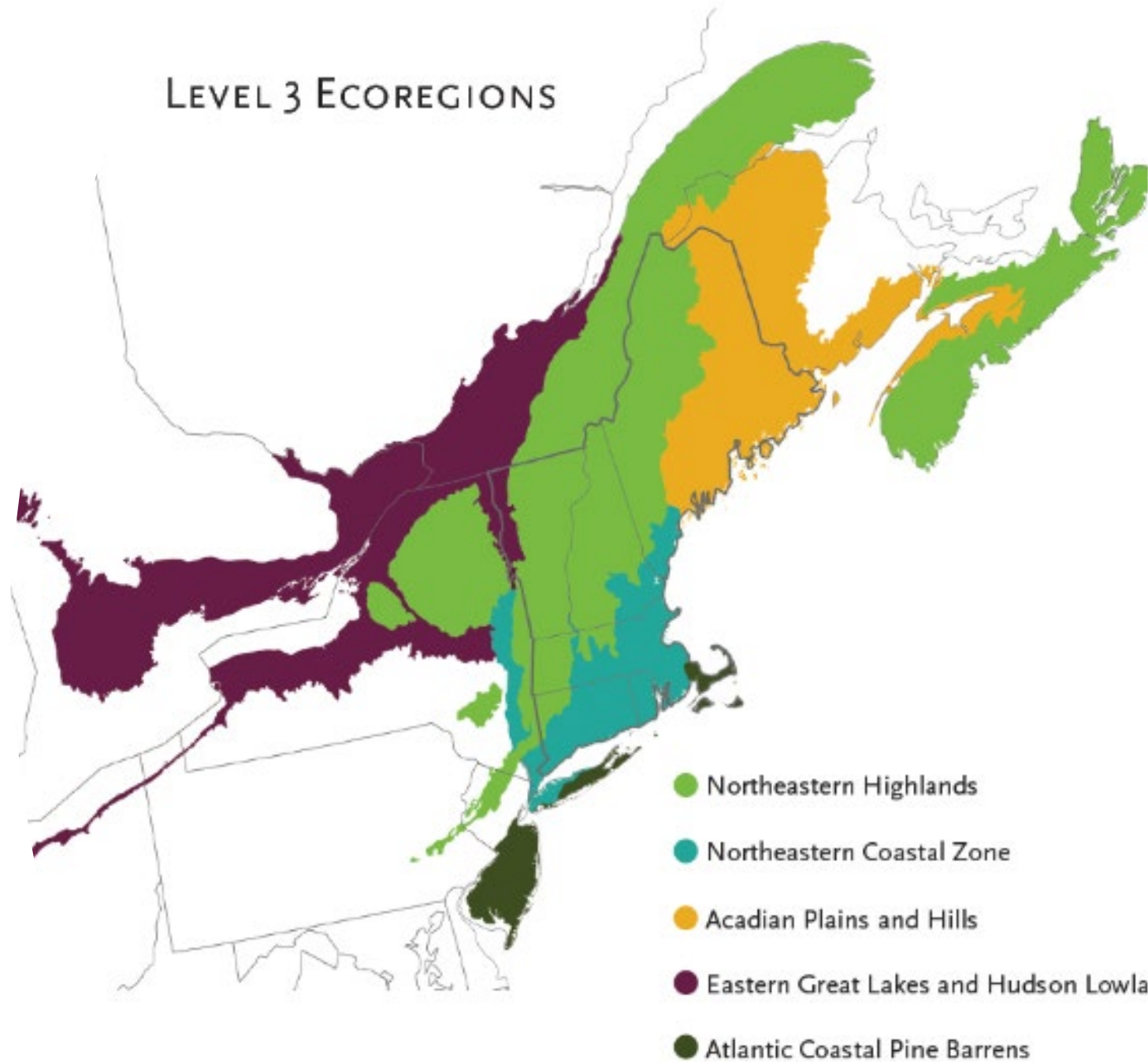
Worms, plants & bugs

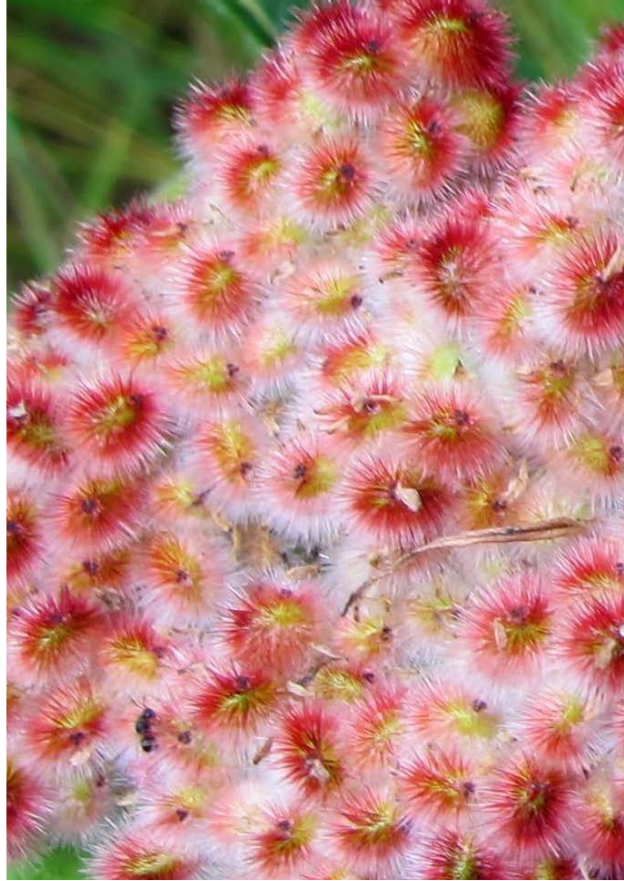
Slowing the spread of invasive species?



Definition

An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is non-native to the ecoregion; and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.





Native species are NOT invasive species



Why be concerned about
invasive species?

Because we
love Maine!



Invasive
species don't
fit into Maine's
ecological
puzzle



||

CREEPY CRAWLIES



Hammerhead
worms – aka
land planaria

Hammerhead
worms feed on
earthworms and
other soft-bodied
invertebrates



Where can you find them?

Leaf litter

Mulch
piles

Garden
beds

Flower
beds

Under
pots

Hammerhead
worms
secrete toxins



**ARE THEY
DANGEROUS?**

Some species produce **tetrodotoxin**, a potent neurotoxin.

They can't bite or sting, but their mucus may:

- Irritate skin
- Harm pets if ingested
- Cause discomfort if it gets in eyes or mouth

Consult your doctor if you suspect you are having a reaction after handling a hammerhead worm.

◀ ▶

● ● ● ● ●

What to do if you find one?

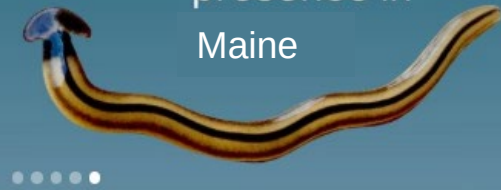
What if I find one?

DO:

- Handle with gloves
- Place in sealed container
- Kill using:
 - Salt
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Freezing
 - Soapy water
 - Sun exposure
- Dispose of container in trash
- Wash hands thoroughly

DON'T:

- Cut it up (it can regenerate!)
- Attempt preventative measures
 - Only treat individual worms as they are found
- Report sightings
 - We are aware of their presence in Maine





Division of Animal
and Plant Health

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Animal Health

Animal Welfare

Apiary (Bees)

Arborist

Board of Pesticides
Control (BPC)

Compost

Horticulture Program

Jumping/Snake (Amynthas) Worms in Maine

On this page:

- [What are Amynthas Worms?](#)
- [History in Maine](#)
- [Why are Amynthas Worms a problem?](#)
- [Amynthas Worm Identification](#)
- [What can you do?](#)

What are Amynthas Worms?

Due to our history of glaciation, there are no native earthworms in Maine. Non-native earthworms from Europe (such as nightcrawlers) have become well established here through early colonial trading. Though they are beneficial



FEATURED LINKS

[Jumping Worms: A Conversation \(June 17–18, 2025\) - YouTube](#)

Jumping Worm Report Form

[2024 Jumping Worm Update \(PDF\)](#) / [Video Presentation at Curtis Memorial Library](#)

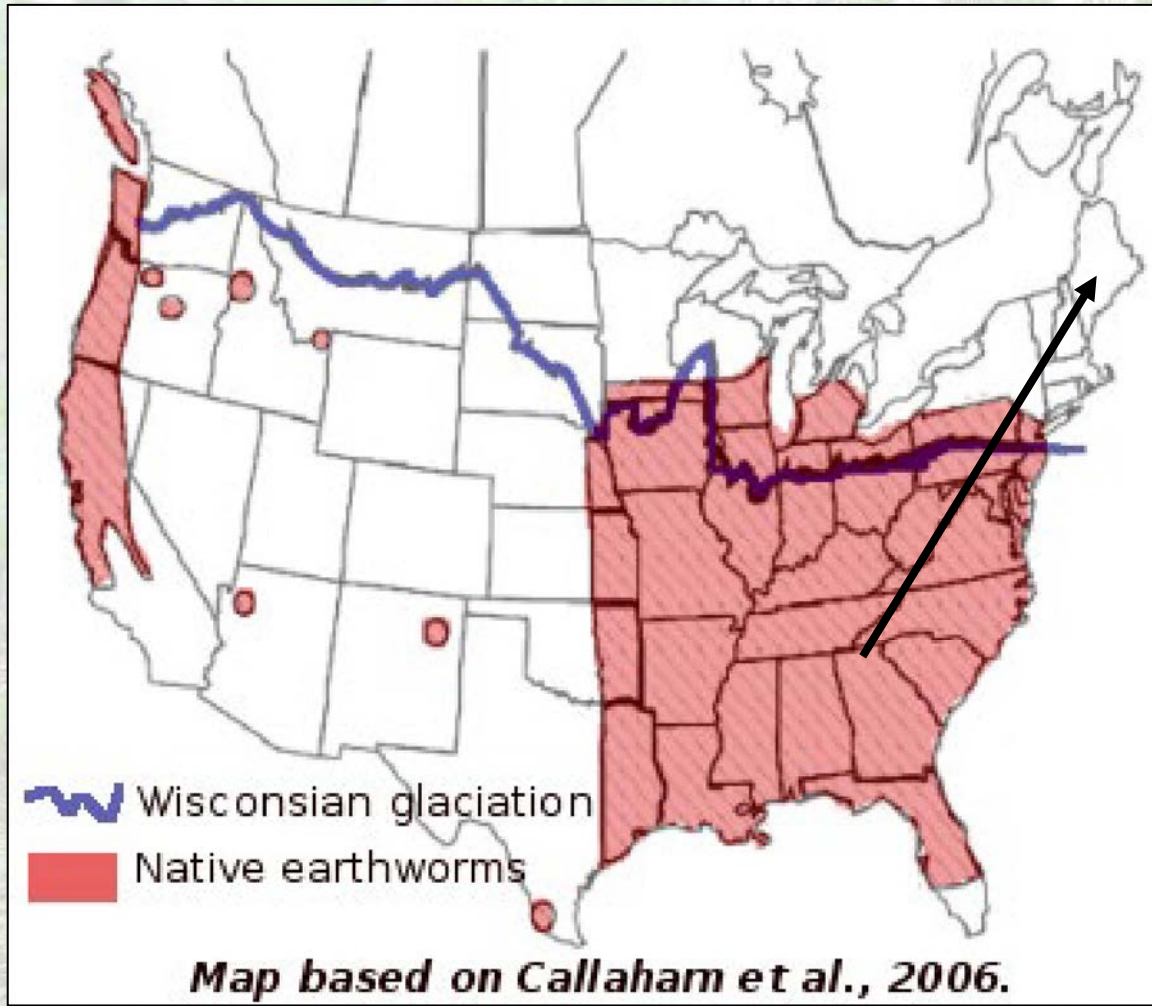
[Invasive Jumping Worm Frequently Asked Questions \(UMass Extension\)](#)

[Jumping/Crazy/Snake Worms Fact Sheet \(UMass Extension\)](#)

[Factsheet for Homeowners](#)

[Impacts and Implications of Non-native Earthworms in](#)

There are no native earthworms in Maine



- Native earthworms have expanded northward
- Introduction of invasive worms...

What are Jumping Worms?

- 3 species in Maine
 - *Amyntas agrestis*, *Amyntas tokioensis*, and *Metophire hilgendorfi*
- AKA: Crazy Worms, Snake Worms, “Jumpers”
- Native to eastern Asia
- Non-native & invasive



Photo: Brittany Schappach, Maine Forest Service



Amyntas worm spp.

Jumping Worm, Crazy Worm, Snake Worm, Alabama Jumper

Characteristics

- Darker in color – appearing almost gray
- Glossy smooth skin
- Light milky white clitellum smooth to the body
- Very active, thrashing and jumping
- Moves like a snake
- Sheds its tail when handled
- Parthenogenic – asexual reproduction so it only takes one worm to start a family.

Where are Jumping Worms?



Found on the top 2 inches of soil, leaves, mulched garden beds, crop beds, shaded forests, newly disturbed areas

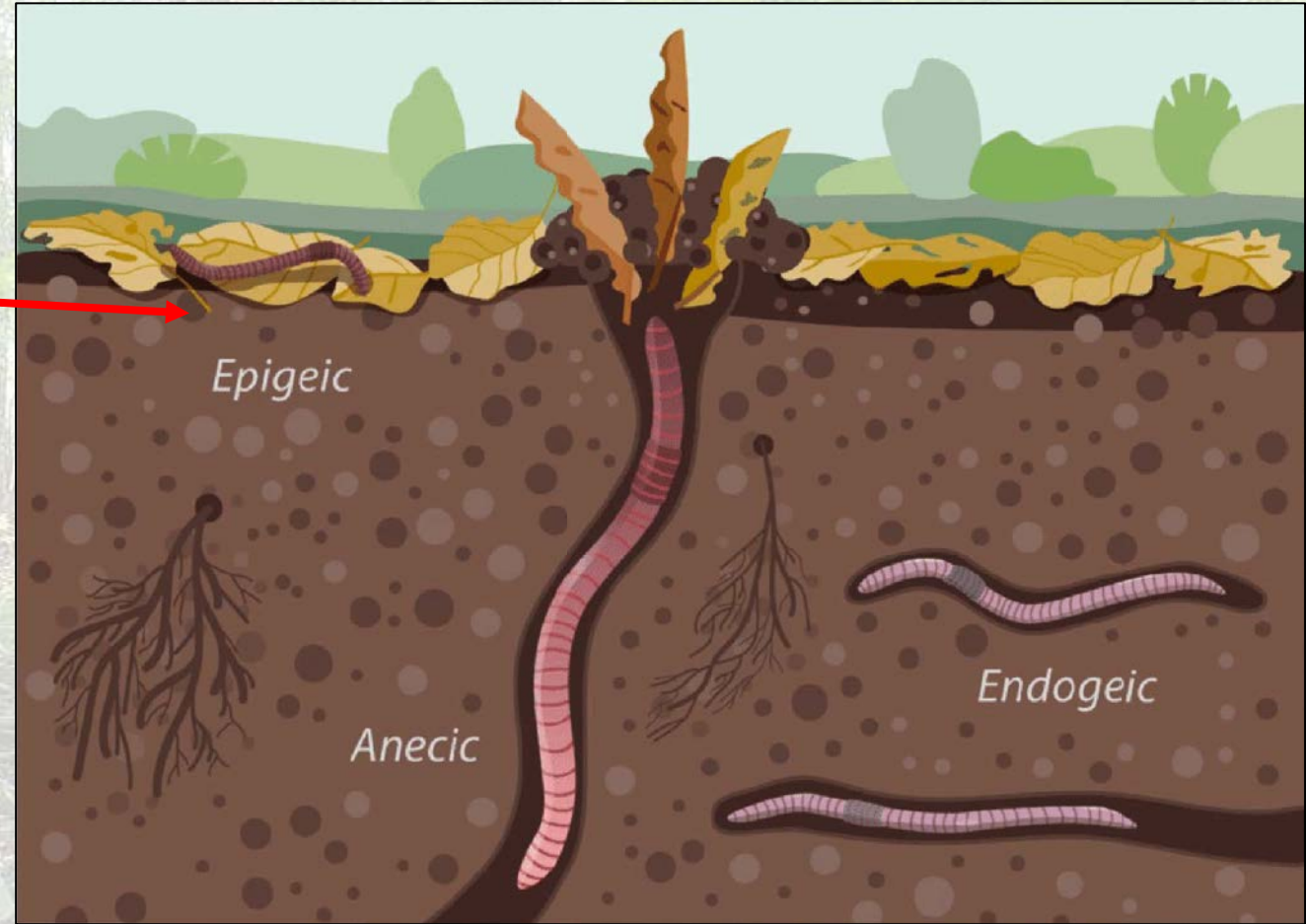
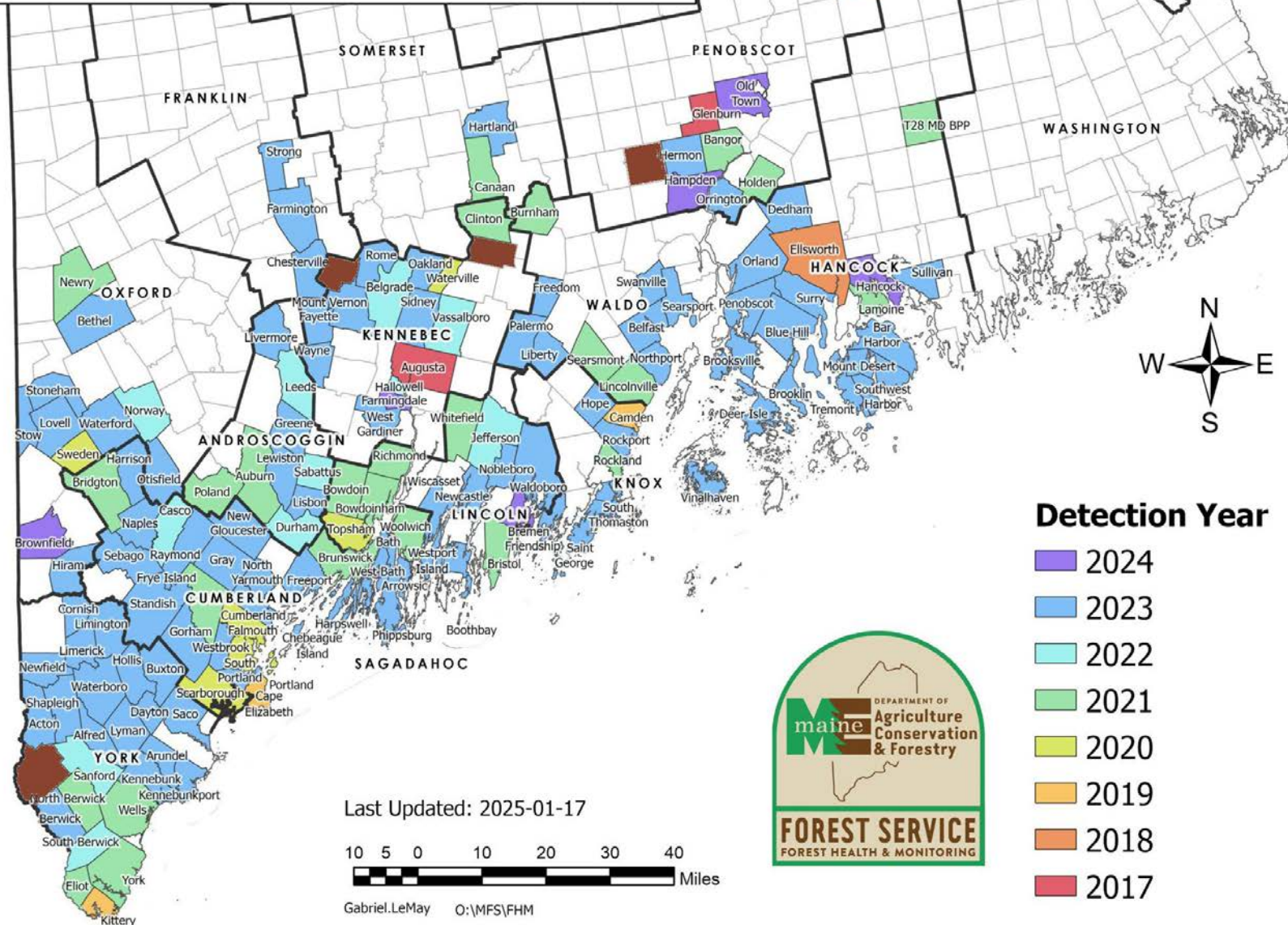


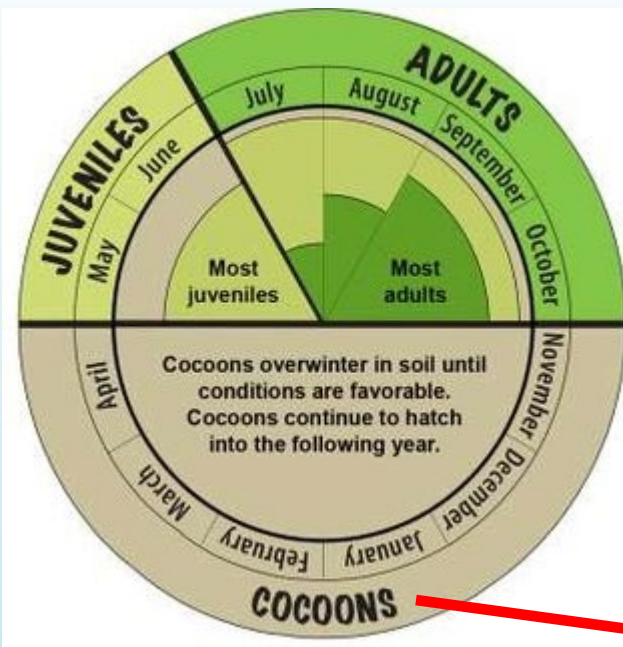
Image: Eisenhauer, N., and E. Eisenhauer. 2020. The intestines of the soil: the taxonomic and functional diversity of earthworms." DOI: 10.32942.

Jumping Worm Detections In Maine Through 2025



4 new towns
in 2025 in
brown

New towns were
Lebanon, Vienna,
Benton & Carmel



Life Cycle



Jumping Worms – Soil ID - Castings

- Loose & dry soil
- Coffee grounds/nerds candy/
ground beef consistency
- Tree roots may be exposed

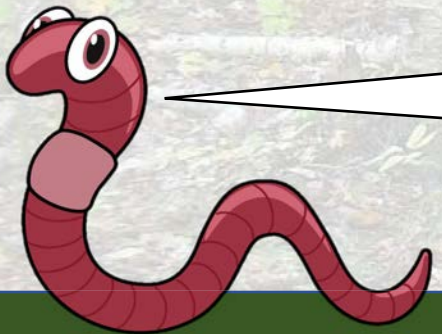


Photo: Brittany Schappach, Maine Forest Service

Jumping Worms – Worm ID

1. Check the clitellum (Aug - Oct):

- ✓ Smooth and flat
- ✓ Milky white or gray
- ✓ Fully encircles worm
- ✓ Found on segments 14-16



Young worms are more difficult to identify

Photo: Brittany Schappach, Maine Forest Service

Jumping Worms – Worm ID

2. Check the setae (“hairs”)

Hair pattern can be used to ID juvenile worms with no clitellum

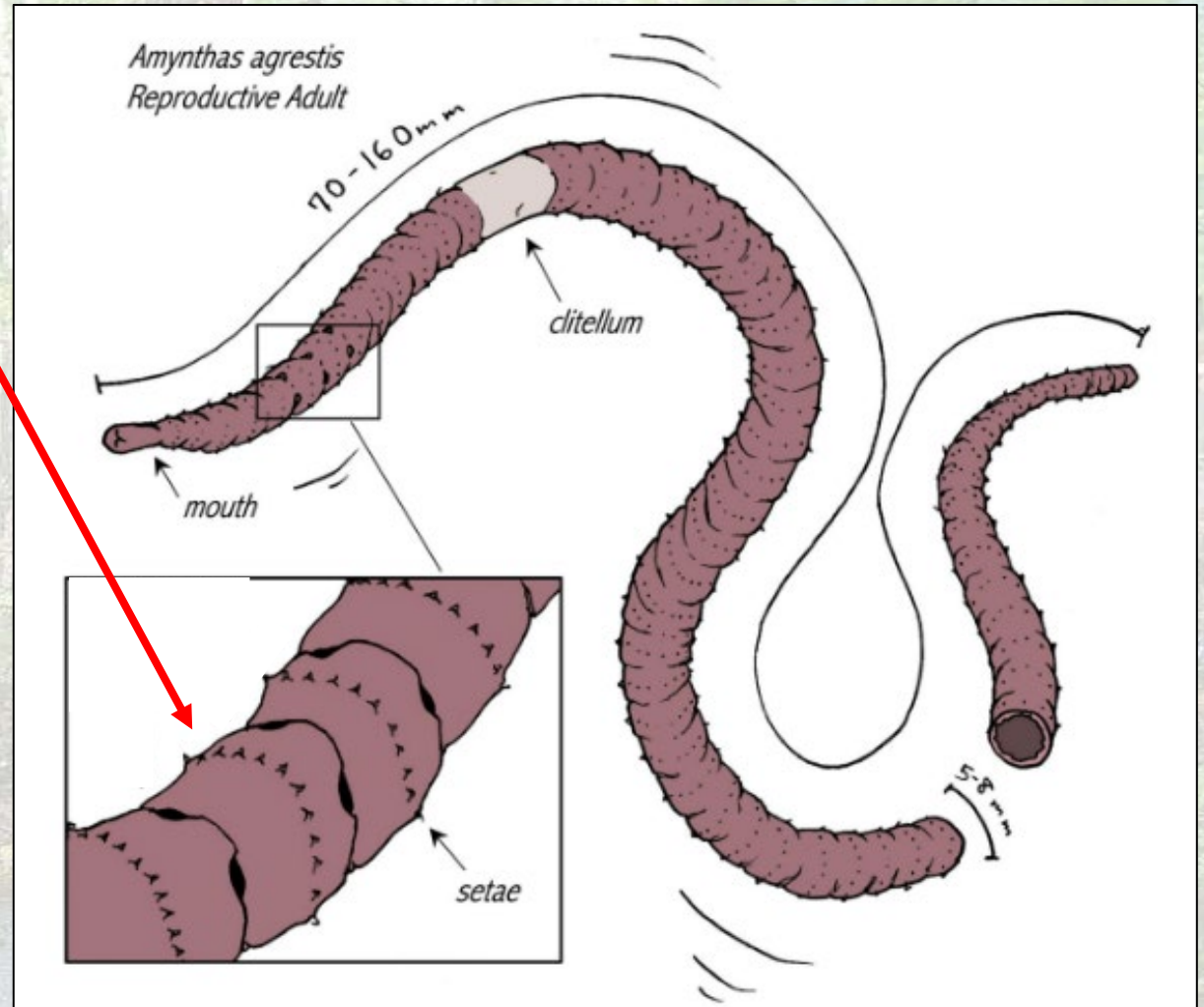
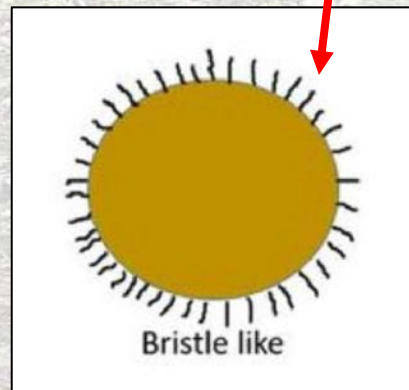


Photo: Portland State University/Oregon State University

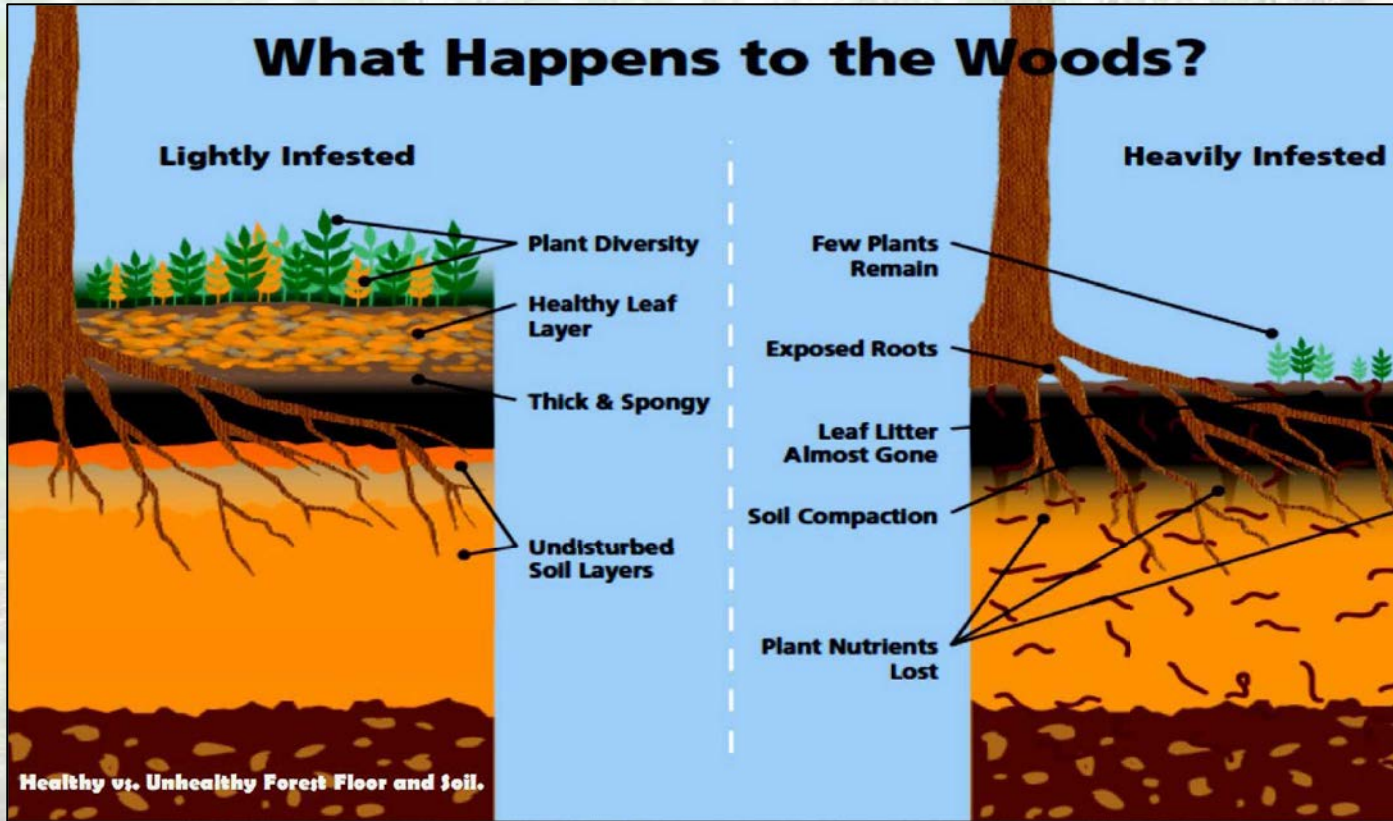
HOW ARE THEY SPREADING?



**Earthworms in the genus
Amyntas soil amendments many
which may be used in landscaping
and horticulture.**



What can Jumping Worms do to our forests?



Plant diversity
Native plants & insects
Healthy tree roots
Leaf litter
Soil nutrients & moisture
Supported wildlife

Photo: Wisconsin DNR

What can Jumping Worms do to our forests?



Forest damage =



Invasive plant presence



Garlic mustard
Alliaria petiolata



Japanese barberry
Berberis thunbergii



Glossy buckthorn
Rhamnus cathartica

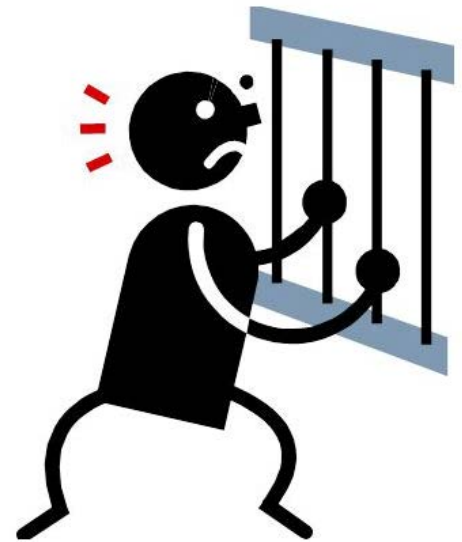
What is Maine doing?

- Illegal to import, but not a regulated invasive species – DACF cannot take action beyond education and outreach
- Multi-agency working group cooperating with University of Massachusetts, Cornell University, the University of Vermont, Yale University, and the University of Minnesota
- MFS has long term monitoring sites

Management: Pesticides

- There are currently no products registered for use to manage jumping worms
- Using pesticides for pests not listed on the label is likely ineffective and may cause unintended consequences
- Research on effective products is ongoing

**THE LABEL
IS THE LAW!**



Prevention – Arrive clean, leave clean

- Clean soil and debris from vehicles, equipment, boots, and other gear before arriving/leaving hiking trails or forests

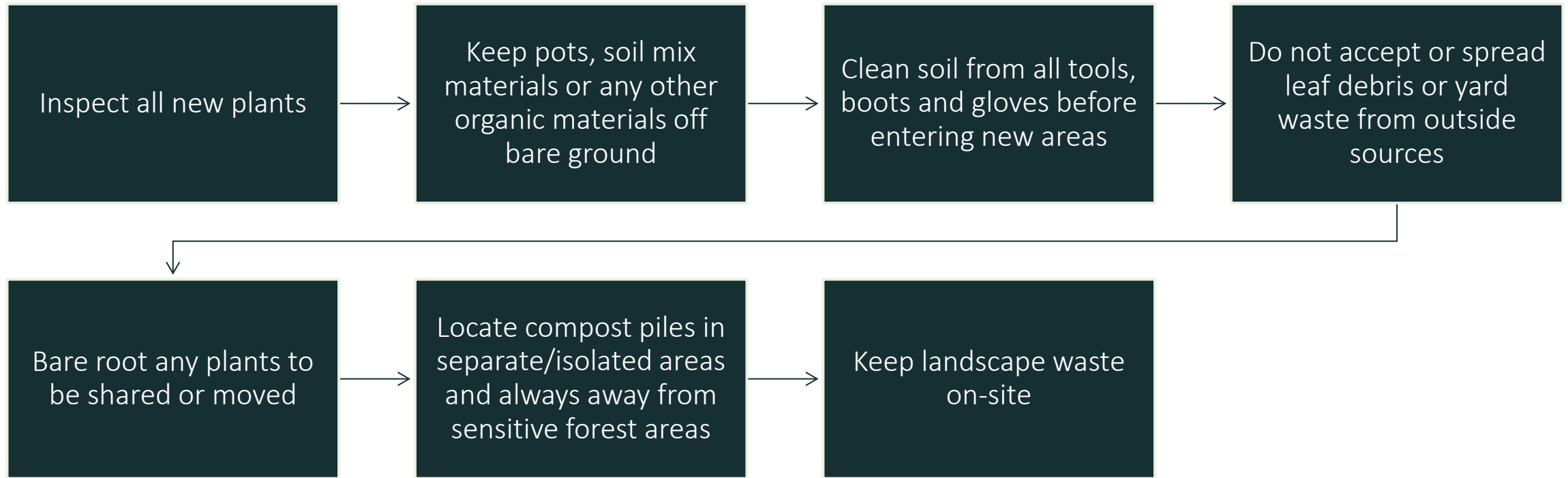




Photo: Brittany Schappach, Maine Forest Service

Prevention

- **Don't** purchase jumping worms for composting, vermicomposting, gardening, or fishing bait
- **Don't** discard live worms in the wild
- **Don't** discard infested yard waste in the woods
- **Do** teach others about jumping worms



BMPs to slow the spread of *Amyntas* worms



I pledge to protect our waters
from invasive species

Never Release Bait

I will always **DISPOSE**
of unwanted bait
in the trash.

EWB_0039_22



Report suspected jumping worms in Maine

← → ↻ 🏠 🔍 https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/jumpingworms.shtml ☆ 📄 📁 📄 📄 📄

📄 USDA APHIS Applic... 📄 IFS assystNET - Services 📄 DACF Apps 📄 Division of Animal a... 📄 Office of Informatio... 📄 Hemp Database 📄 Current Forms 📄 hawaiioint.sharepoi... 📄 2024-097_approved... >> 📁 All Bookmarks

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- [Why are Amynths Worms a problem?](#)
- [Amynths Worm Identification](#)
- [What can you do?](#)

What are Amynths Worms?

Due to our history of glaciation, there are no native earthworms in Maine. Non-native earthworms from Europe (such as nightcrawlers) have become well established here through early colonial trading. Though they are beneficial

European nightcrawler
Raised clitellum, further from head



FEATURED LINKS

[Jumping Worms: A Conversation \(June 17-18, 2025\) - YouTube](#)

Jumping Worm Report Form

[2024 Jumping Worm Update \(PDF\) / Video Presentation at Curtis Memorial Library](#)

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[Impacts and Implications of Non-native Earthworms in](#)

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture Conservation & Forestry



Terrestrial invasive plants

What harm do invasive plants cause?



Out-compete native plant species, overrun habitats

Invasive plants can exacerbate climate change



CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY MUST ADDRESS INVASIVE SPECIES' CAPACITY TO:



Damage ecosystem function and reduce nature-based solutions like carbon sequestration



Degrade natural and built infrastructure resilience, impacting rural and urban communities



Reduce coastal communities' resilience to storms, erosion, flooding, and biodiversity loss



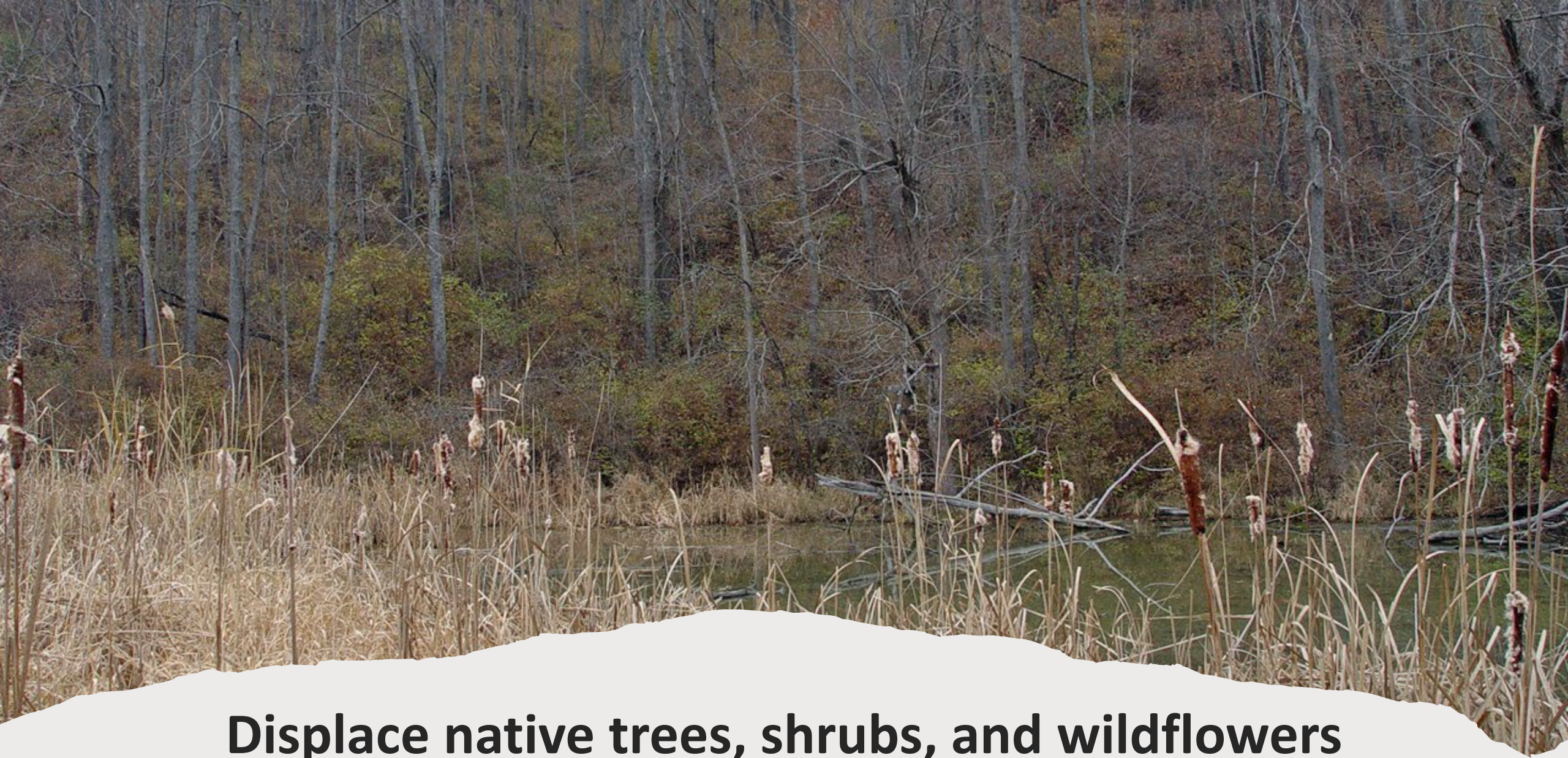
Imperil Indigenous cultural practices, food security, and ways of life



Threaten island sustainability, human health, food systems, and transitional practices



**Damage or kill plants
directly or indirectly**



Displace native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers

**Alter wildlife
habitat &
prevent forest
regeneration**



Harm food webs that depend on native plants

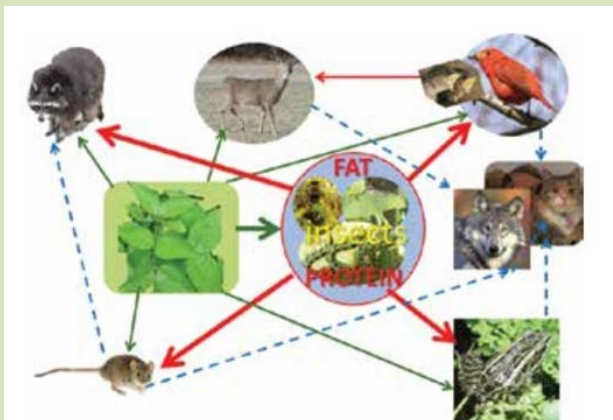
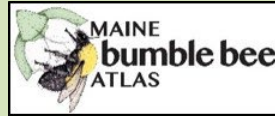


Figure 4. A simple food web showing the importance of insects in transforming plant material into food for many other animals.



Figure from Jordan 2014, Novel ecosystems, invasion and the forgotten food web, Quarterly Newsletter of the Long Island Botanical Society, Spring edition.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES?

Key steps in addressing invasive species

- Prevent new introductions
- Identify, assess,
- Report (horticulture@maine.gov) (iMapInvasives.org)
- Prioritize
- Control
- Monitor
- (repeat)

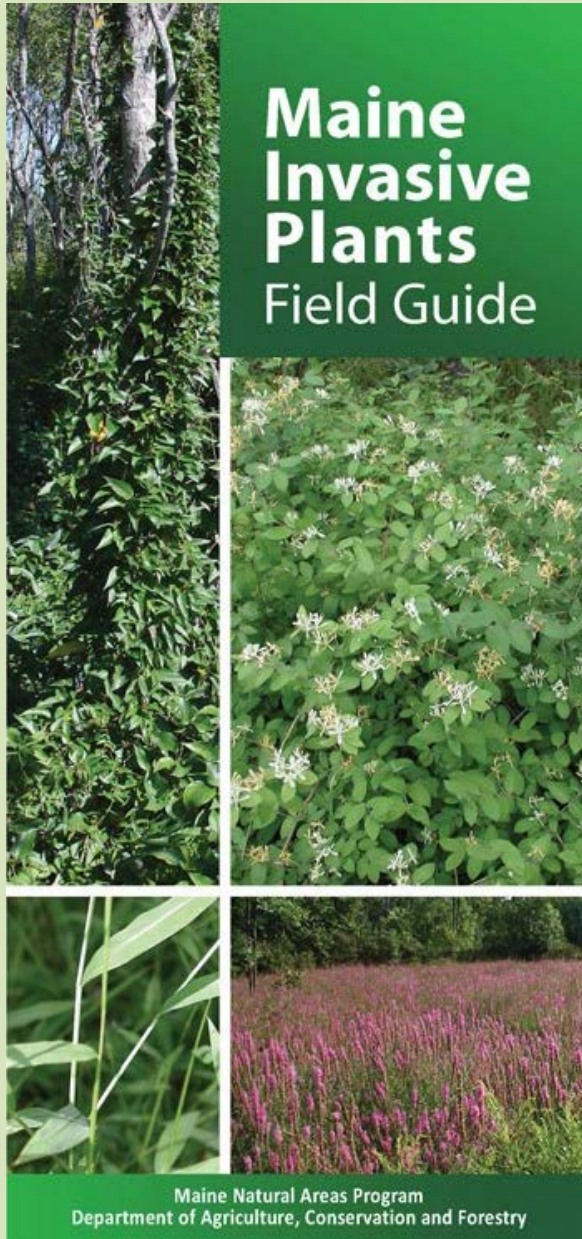


Identification of invasive plants

- Plant ID requires practice
- Go outside, look at plants
- Use the MNAP field guide
- Use the GoBotany website to look at photos



Maine Invasive Plants Field Guide



**Maine
Invasive
Plants
Field Guide**

Maine Natural Areas Program
Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

GOUTWEED
(Bishop's weed)
Aegopodium podagraria
Status in Maine: widespread

**SEVERELY
INVASIVE**



Description: Herbaceous, perennial ground cover, 1-2' tall, with many common names. Leaves: Compound with variable triternate leaflets; pointed leaflets have serrate margins. Most leaves are basal with long petioles. Wild type is a medium green color while the variegated form is pale bluish green with white margins. Flowers/seeds: Typical carrot family flowers; 2-5" diameter umbels of tiny white flowers atop 2-3' stalk. Plants require at least partial sun to flower. Seeds are brown, small and flat. Roots: Fleshy long white rhizomes, like quackgrass (*Elymus repens*).

Native range: Europe & Northern Asia. How arrived in U.S.: As an ornamental.

Reproduction: While research shows that goutweed's insect pollinated flowers can produce viable seed, seedlings are rarely encountered. Its branching network of rhizomes allows it to grow aggressively away from plantings or colonize a new site via contaminated soil.

Habitat: Moist soil and light shade are preferred garden spots, but goutweed is content in many habitats. It typically enters forests from runaway plantings or via fill contaminated with rhizome fragments.

Similar native species: Golden alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) has somewhat similarly shaped leaves but yellow flowers. Anisewood and sweet-cicely (*Osmorhiza* spp.) also have somewhat similarly shaped leaves but are anise-scented.

herbs & grasses

- Essential ID and control information
- 46 species
- Waterproof, small
- \$30 including S&H
- Visit MNAP website to order
- Read the “Managing Invasive Plants” section in the back!

Chapter 273 - Criteria for Evaluating Terrestrial Plant Species

- In order to include a plant on a list of invasive terrestrial plant species administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, ALL the following criteria must be met:
 - Be non-native to Maine, and
 - Have the potential for rapid growth, dissemination, and establishment in minimally managed habitats, and
 - Have the biological potential for widespread dispersion and for dispersing over spatial gaps, and
 - Have the biological potential for existing in high numbers or large colonies in minimally managed habitats, and
 - Have the potential to displace native species in minimally managed habitats.

Invasive Plants Prohibited from Sale or Import in Maine What you need to Know



CMR 01-001 Chapter 273: Criteria for Listing Invasive Terrestrial Plants makes it illegal to sell, import, export, buy or intentionally propagate for sale the 33 plant species listed below.

<i>Acer ginnala</i> (amur maple)	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> (ornamental jewelweed)
<i>Acer platanoides</i> (Norway maple)	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> (yellow iris)
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> (bishop's weed)	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> (common privet)
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (tree of heaven)	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> (Japanese honeysuckle)
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (garlic mustard)	<i>Lonicera mackii</i> (amur or bush honeysuckle)
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> (false indigo bush)	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> (Morrow's honeysuckle)
<i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i> (porcelain berry)	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> (Tatarian honeysuckle)
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> (common mugwort)	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> (purple loosestrife)
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> (Japanese barberry)	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> (Japanese stilt grass)
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> (common barberry)	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> (paulownia, princess tree)
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> (Asiatic bittersweet)	<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i> (mile-a-minute)
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> (Autumn olive)	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i> (amur cork tree)
<i>Euonymus alatus</i> (winged euonymus)	<i>Populus alba</i> (white cottonwood)
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i> (cypress spurge)	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (black locust)
<i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i> (Chinese bindweed)	<i>Rosa multiflora</i> (multiflora rose)
<i>Fallopia japonica</i> (Japanese knotweed)	
<i>Frangula alnus</i> (glossy buckthorn)	
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> (dame's rocket)	

Quick Facts

- The sale/import ban includes the listed species and all cultivars, varieties and hybrids.
- Variances may be applied for and granted for scientific research and for varieties, cultivars or hybrids that have been shown to not be invasive through peer reviewed scientific research.
- The invasive plant rule and included prohibited plant list will be reviewed every 5 years.
- Recent changes to the rule will prohibit the sale of an additional 30 species starting January 1, 2024 (see back).
- Find more information at www.maine.gov/da/ct/np/np/horticulture/invasiveplants.shtml



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
DIVISION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
207-287-3991
HORTICULTURE@MAINE.GOV
WWW.MAINE.GOV/HORT

Scientific name	Common name	Effective Date
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European alder	1/1/2024
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Woodland angelica	1/1/2024
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Wild chervil, raven's wing	1/1/2024
<i>Aralia elata</i>	Japanese angelica tree	1/1/2024
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering rush	1/1/2024
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive	1/1/2024
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper, climbing spindle tree	1/1/2024
<i>Festuca filiformis</i>	Fine-leaved sheep fescue	1/1/2024
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser celandine	1/1/2024
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow hornpoppy	1/1/2024
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy, creeping charlie	1/1/2024
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Great manna grass, reed manna grass	1/1/2024
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Sea buckthorn	1/1/2024
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Border privet	1/1/2024
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Dwarf honeysuckle	1/1/2024
<i>Lythrum virgatum</i>	European wand loosestrife	1/1/2024
<i>Miscanthus sacchariflorus</i>	Amur silvergrass	1/1/2024
<i>Petasites japonicus</i>	Fuki, butterbur, giant butterbur	1/1/2024
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass, variegated ribbon grass	1/1/2024
<i>Photinia villosa</i>	Photinia, Christmas berry	1/1/2024
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed	1/1/2024
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Golden bamboo	1/1/2024
<i>Phyllostachys aureosulcata</i>	Yellow groove bamboo	1/1/2024
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery ("Bradford") pear	1/1/2024
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	1/1/2024
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Wineberry	1/1/2024
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Cup plant	1/1/2024
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European mountain-ash	1/1/2024
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	1/1/2024
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common valerian	1/1/2024

Invasive Terrestrial Plant Species of Special Concern

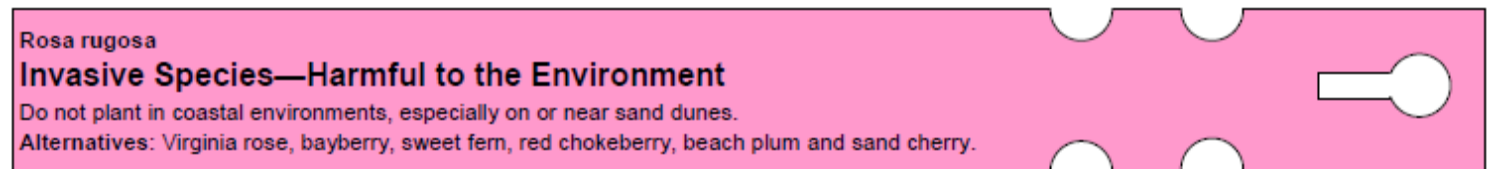
Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Rugosa rose, beach rose

Rosa rugosa – invasive species of special concern starting 1/1/2024



1. Must provide signage or plant tags (next slide)
 - A. The plant vendor must provide species specific guidance at the time of sale to notify the purchaser about the invasive potential of the species and what habitat types to avoid when installing the plant.
 - B. No person selling or offering for sale an invasive terrestrial plant species of special concern shall conceal, detach, alter, deface, or destroy any label, sign, or notice required under this section.

New requirements for *Rosa rugosa*



Plants on the “Watch List”

- ▶ Hardy kiwi
- ▶ Chocolate vine
- ▶ Italian arum
- ▶ Paper mulberry
- ▶ Butterfly bush
- ▶ Sweet autumn
- ▶ Indian yam
- ▶ Chinese yam
- ▶ Weeping lovegrass
- ▶ Queen of the meadow
- ▶ Two-colored bush clover
- ▶ California privet
- ▶ Honeyberry
- ▶ Ragged robin
- ▶ White mulberry
- ▶ Sawtooth oak

Plants on the “Watch List”

- ▶ Rosa rugosa
- ▶ Hardy pampas grass
- ▶ Sticky sage
- ▶ Milk thistle
- ▶ Japanese spiraea
- ▶ Sapphire-berry
- ▶ Japanese tree lilac
- ▶ Chinese cedar
- ▶ Siberian elm
- ▶ Linden arrowwood
- ▶ Siebold viburnum
- ▶ Japanese wisteria
- ▶ Chinese wisteria

STILTGRASS (*MICROSTEGIUM VIMINIUM*)

- Found at York county nursery and two Georgetown properties
- Be on the lookout for dense patches of unfamiliar grass
- Built up thatch is fire risk
- Crowds out natives



Stiltgrass



- 5 Known Sites
- Found in Forests



Invasive Stiltgrass

Microstegium vimineum



Have you seen this plant?



Invasive stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is a highly invasive annual weed that causes ecological and economic harm by forming a thick thatch layer that makes it difficult for native trees, shrubs and wildflower seeds to establish and grow. The presence of invasive stiltgrass in a forest may also increase fire risk.

Please help us find this Early Detection, Rapid Response plant in Maine. **You can help!** If you suspect invasive stiltgrass, **note the location** and **send a photo** to invasives.mnap@maine.gov. Look for these characteristics:

1. 2-4" long leaves that are ½" wide and alternate along the stem.
2. Upper leaf surface has a stripe of reflective hairs along the mid-rib.
3. Leaf edges that feel smooth to the touch. Unlike some native grasses that have stiff hairs that make the leaf edges feel rough or sticky.
4. Plants that flower and set seed late in the season (September-October), much later than many other grasses. Seed spikes are similar to crabgrass.
5. Stems may develop a reddish tint late in the season.



MILE-A-MINUTE VINE (*Persicaria perfoliata*)

- Not yet established in Maine
- Several reports/interceptions in 2023
- Climbing/sprawling annual vine
- Can grow 6" in one day
- Produces seeds June-Sept
 - Be vigilant in cutting back
- Seeds viable up to 6yrs
- Lots of look-a-likes

Photo credit: Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

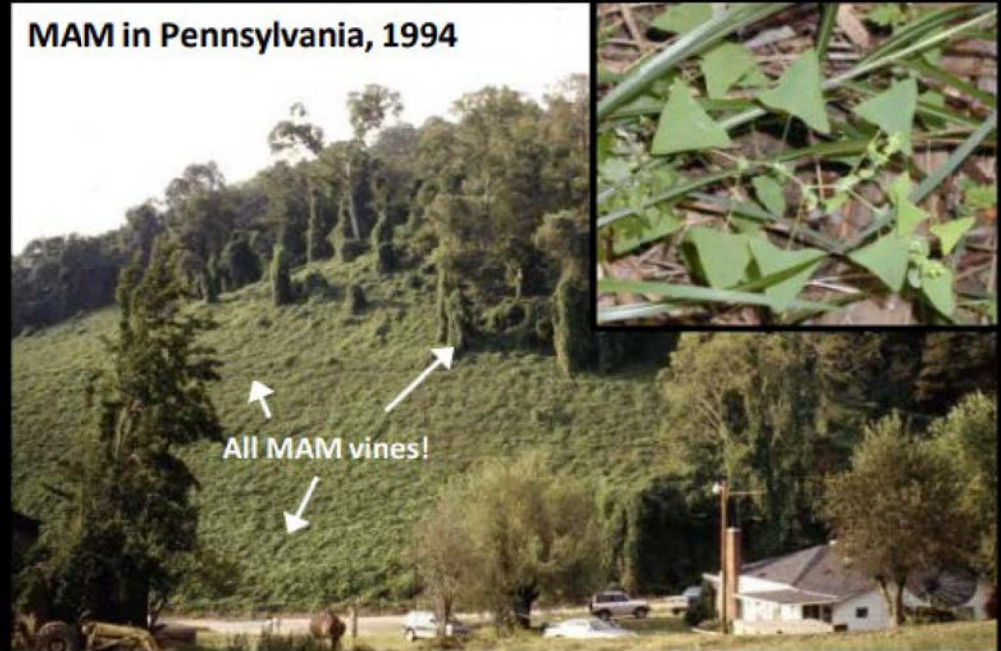
Mile-a-minute Vine (MAM)

Persicaria perfoliata

1. Triangular leaves- no lobes or indentations



MAM in Pennsylvania, 1994



2. Small barbs along stems



3. Saucer-shaped leaves (called ocrea) at nodes



Have you seen this plant?



Mile-a-minute vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*) is a highly invasive annual weed that causes ecological and economic harm by out competing and overgrowing native species. A single mile-a-minute vine can grow up to 6 inches per day and will climb trees and posts and scramble over other vegetation.

Please help us find this Early Detection, Rapid Response plant in Maine. **You can help!** If you see a vine with **all three** of these characteristics (1) very triangular leaves, (2) very sharp barbs on the stem, and (3) clasping ocrea, **note the location** and **send a photo** to invasives.mnap@maine.gov.

Yes



Suspect mile-a-minute and report.

NO



Leaf shapes of other vines. These species should **NOT** be reported.

Photos & thanks to Todd Mervosh, Les Mehrhoff, Hope Leeson, Judy Hough-Goldstein, Renee Sullivan & the CT Invasive Plant Working Group

MILE-A-MINUTE LOOK-A-LIKES

Tearthumbs are closely related to Mile-a-Minute vine. Many have prickles on the stem, but their leaves are longer, less triangular, and often lobed at the base. There are many species, most lack the clasping bract. Top photos of **Halberd-leaved Tearthumb**, bottom photos of **Arrow-leaved Tearthumb**.



Photos: Bruce Patterson | Glen Mittelhauser |
Arthur Haines | Ariele Tal



https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/mile-a-minute.pdf

Fringed Bindweed, **Climbing Bindweed**, and **Black Bindweed** are similar vining plants in the genus *Fallopia*. The first two are native, though Black Bindweed is non-native and weedy. These three species have nodes along their stems and superficially resemble each other. The nodes are fringed in Fringed Bindweed but not the other two. Keels on flower petals and fruit texture distinguish the other two species.



Fringed Bindweed (left and right above): Don Cameron | Frank Bramley



Welcome to Garden Plant Finder!
Here you can discover plants native to New England that will thrive in your garden and meet your needs.

Additional Information

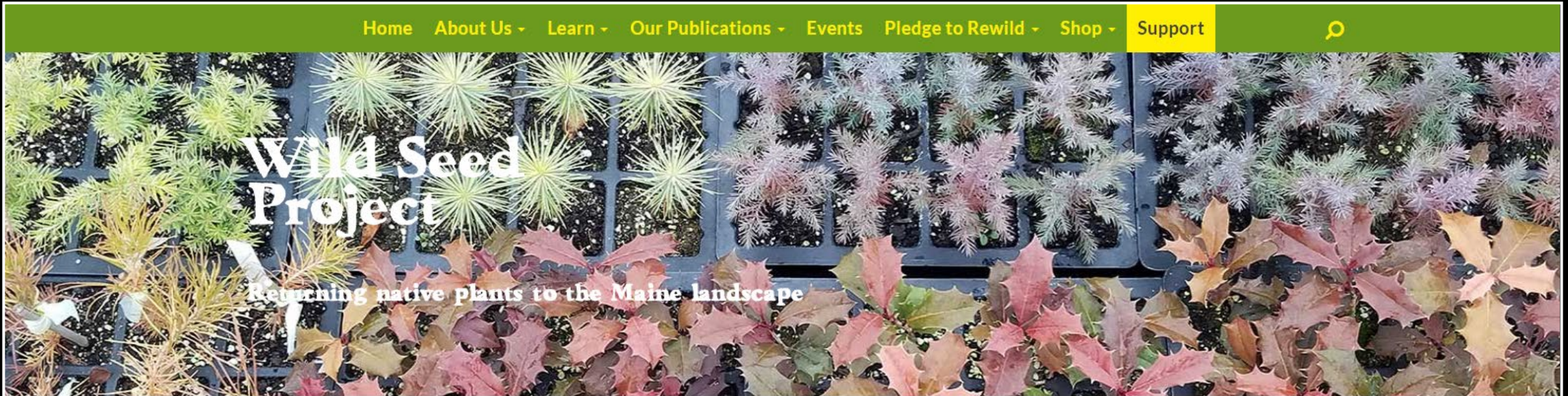
- About Ecoregions, Cultivars and More

Search for plants by name using "quick search," or narrow your results based on plant type, flower color, **New England Level 3 ecoregion**, exposure, moisture, bloom season, and even **cultivation status**. Specify whether to show results that meet *all* or *any* of your search criteria by toggling the box at the bottom of the page. You can also use our search tool to access information about the full range of plants sold at Garden in the Woods and Nasami Farm.

Check out our **Important Definitions** page to learn more about ecoregions, cultivation status, and why certain plants are included in this database.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search>

Many great plant choice sources today



Where to Buy Native Plants

The native plant movement is gaining traction in much of the U.S. — and that is fantastic! It can still be difficult, though, to source local native plants and seeds; so to help, we've carefully curated the following directory of where to buy northeastern native plants by state, including:

- Wholesale and retail nurseries that specialize in or include a wide selection of native plants
- Native plant sales hosted by nonprofits and co-ops annually or seasonally

While we include the highest quality plant nurseries in this directory, it is still important that you do your own research to find out what native plants are in stock, if the plants are grown from seed, and if the nurseries use



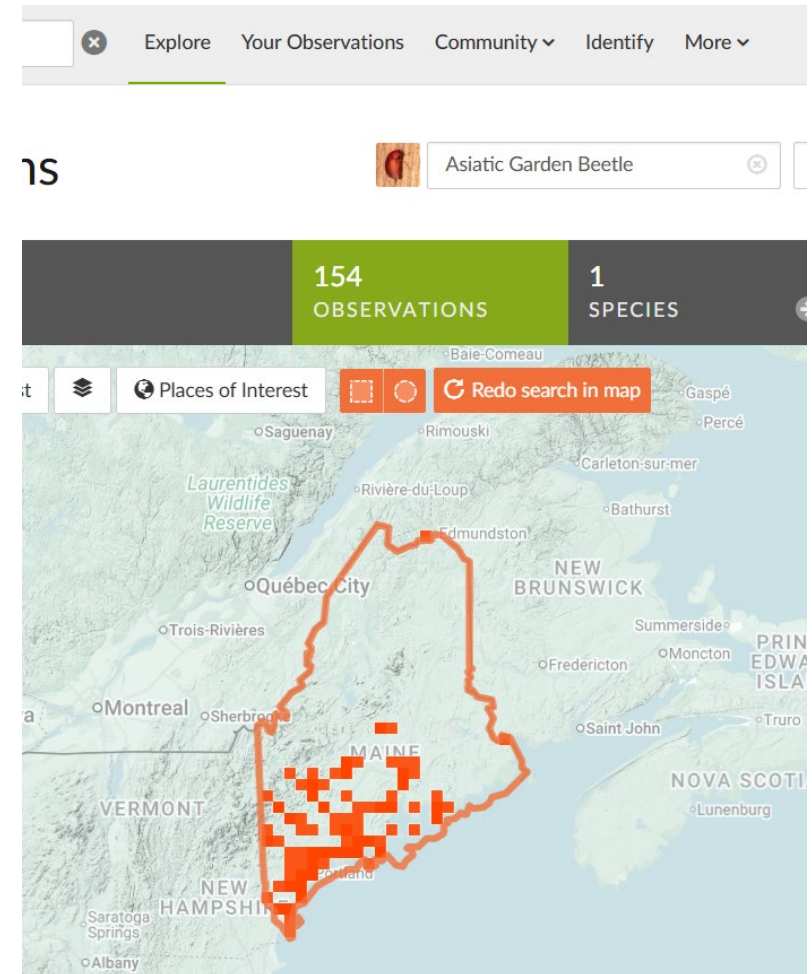
Where to buy native plants



Agricultural, Tree & Forest Insects and Diseases



Asiatic garden beetle



Asiatic garden beetle



Feed on more than 100 plant species

Favorites include: butterfly bush, rose, dahlia, aster & chrysanthemum



May strip leaves to the midrib and destroy flowers



The grubs are seldom dense enough to cause severe damage on their own, but they do feed on the fine roots of many plants



The key to Japanese beetle management

- Biological control
- Winsome fly eggs
- Let the parasitized beetles live



What is SLF

A “true bug”; Fulgoridae = **planthopper**



- 1 generation/year
- Adults are large – 1” long
- Nymphs have 4 stages
- Eggs overwinter under a protective coating



Egg mass
SEEN: October-June



1st instar nymph
May-July



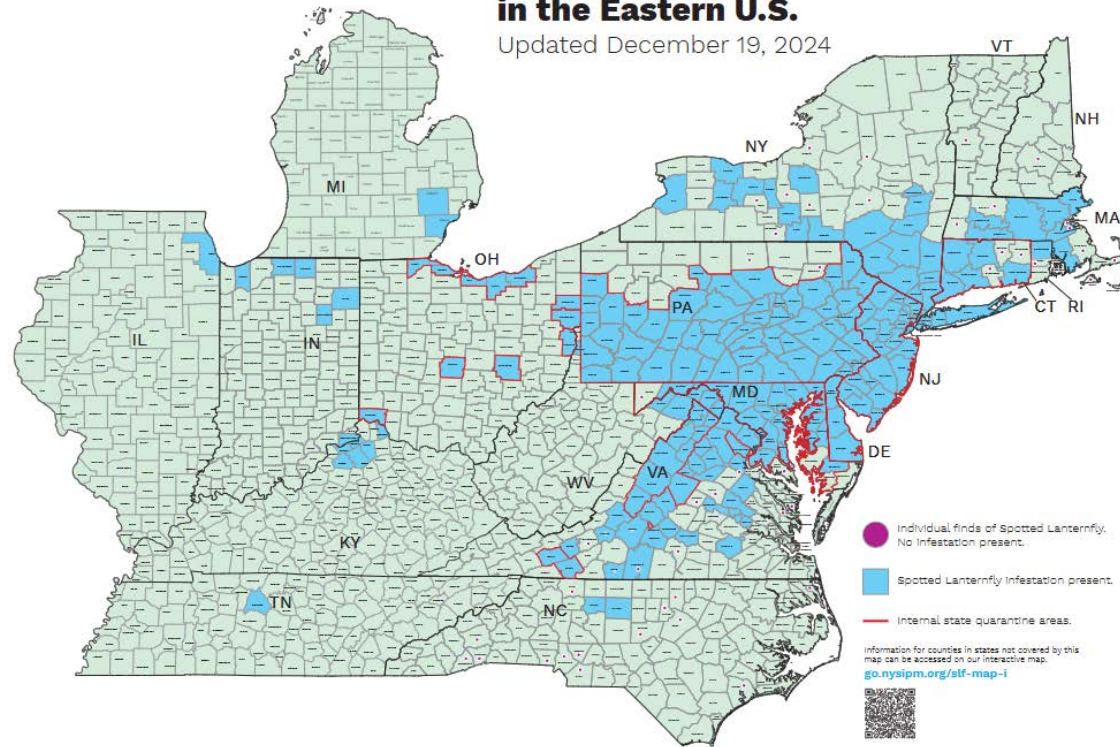
4th instar nymph
July-September



Adult
August-November

Spotted Lanternfly Reported Distribution in the Eastern U.S.

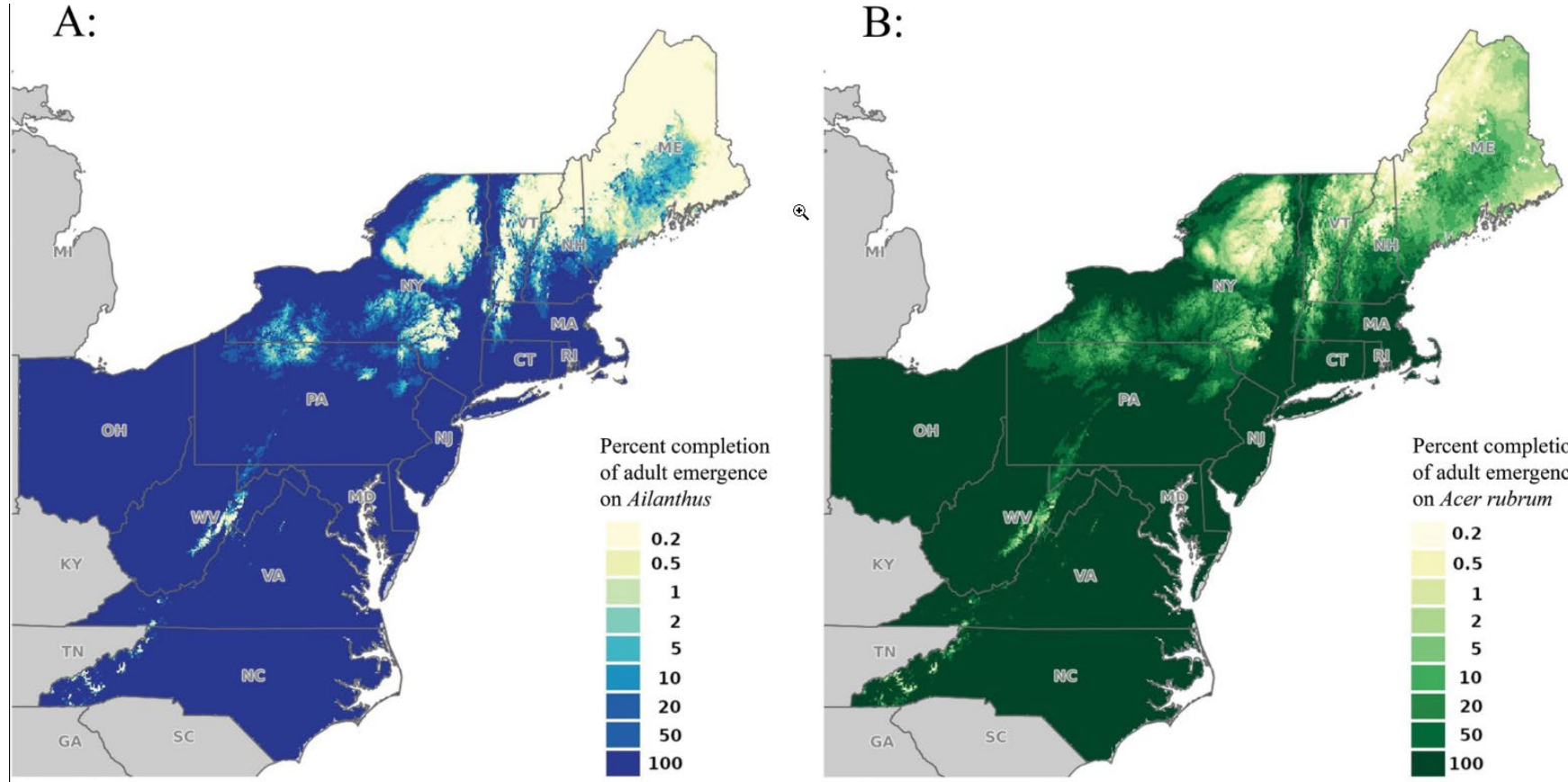
Updated December 19, 2024



Cornell CALS
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**New York State
Integrated Pest Management**

SLF risk in Maine



Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Feeding on TOH improves female maturity



What could SLF damage?

1. Vineyards – highest known risk
2. Apples
3. Nurseries
4. Maple syrup production
5. Structures



Spotted lanternflies. Photo by Erica Smyers.

Report any potential sightings to bugwatch@maine.gov

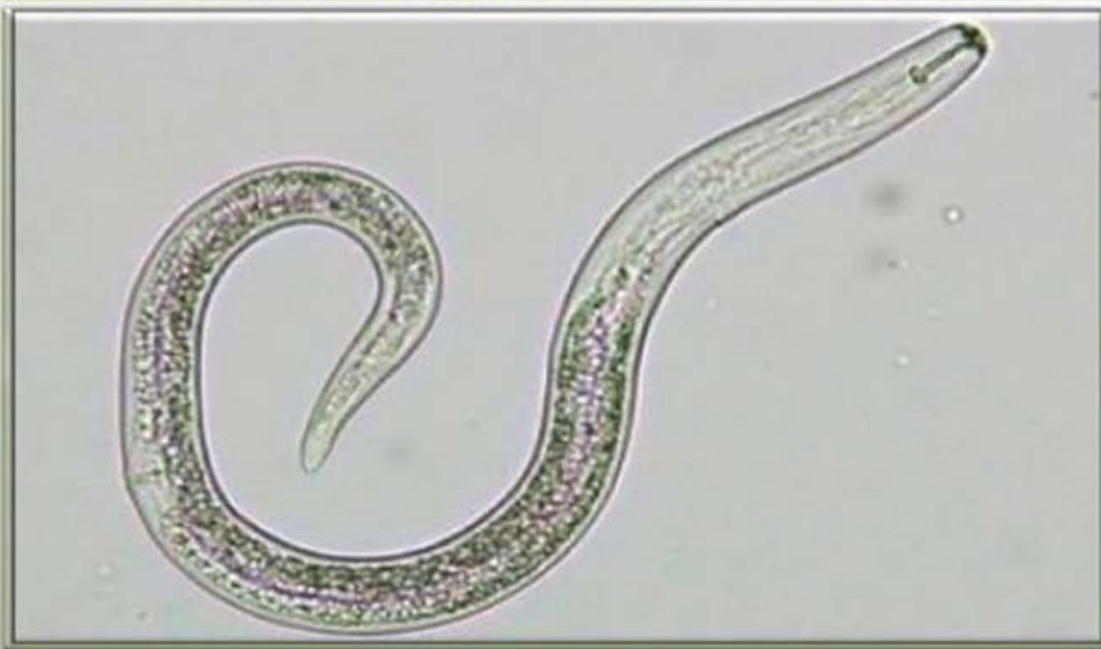


Beech Leaf Disease – a newer concern



BEECH LEAF DISEASE

- First reported in OH, 2012
- American, European, and Oriental beech are susceptible



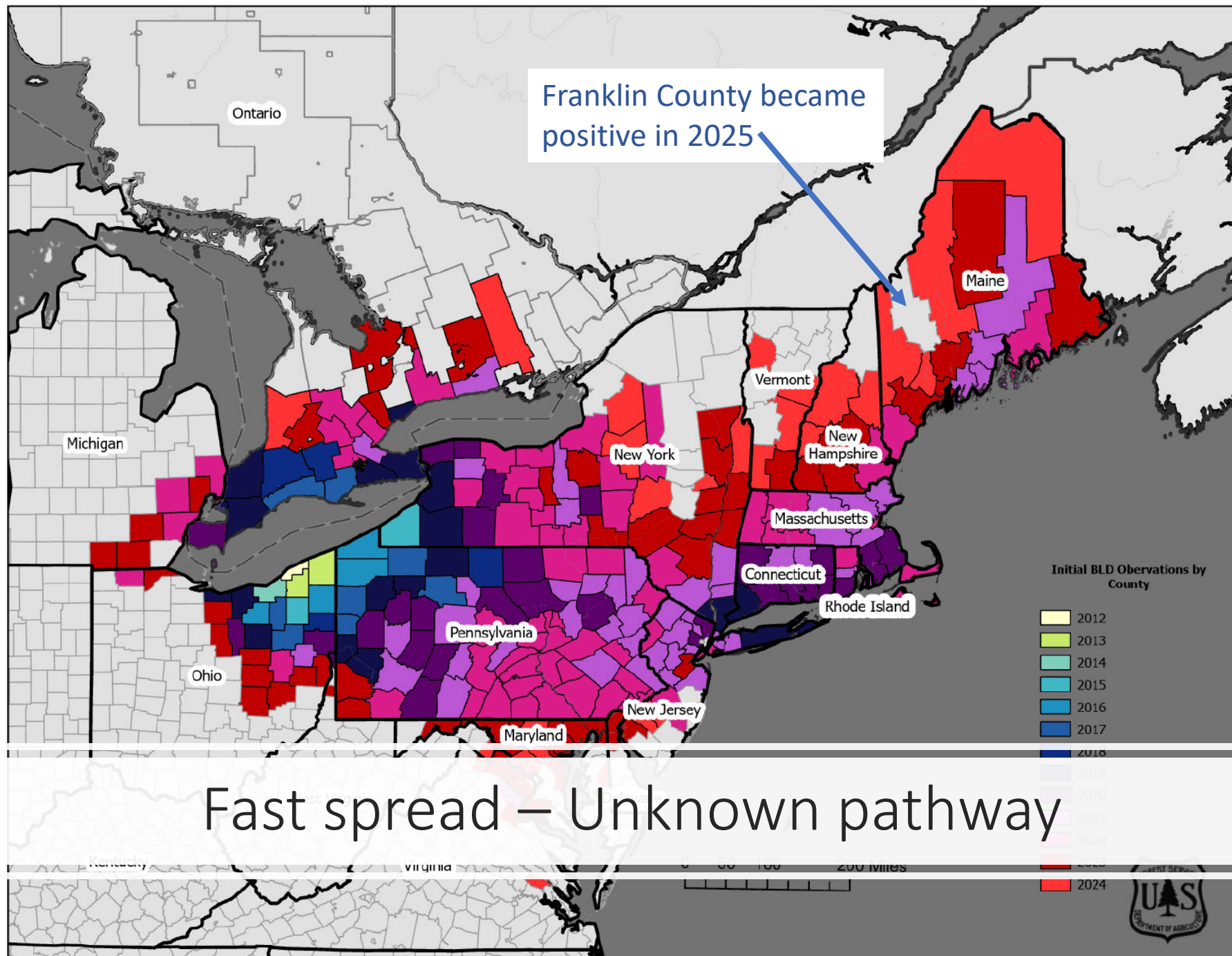
- Perhaps caused by a foliar nematode, *litylenchus crenatae*

**BLD leaf**

Late summer - fall season

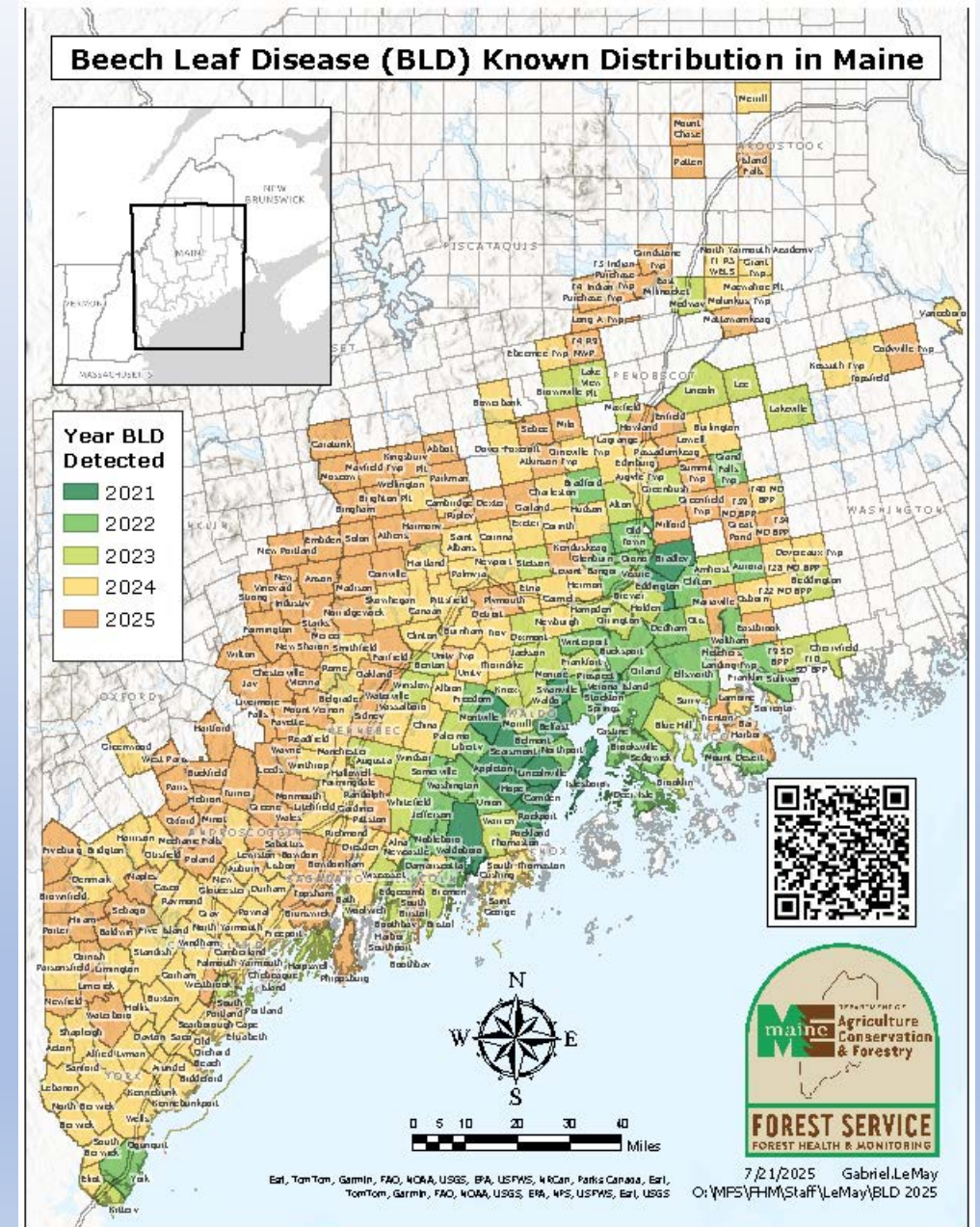
Nematodes collected from 10-15 BLD leaves

Nematode-wool: typical agglomeration of nematodes within this family



First reported in Maine – June 2021

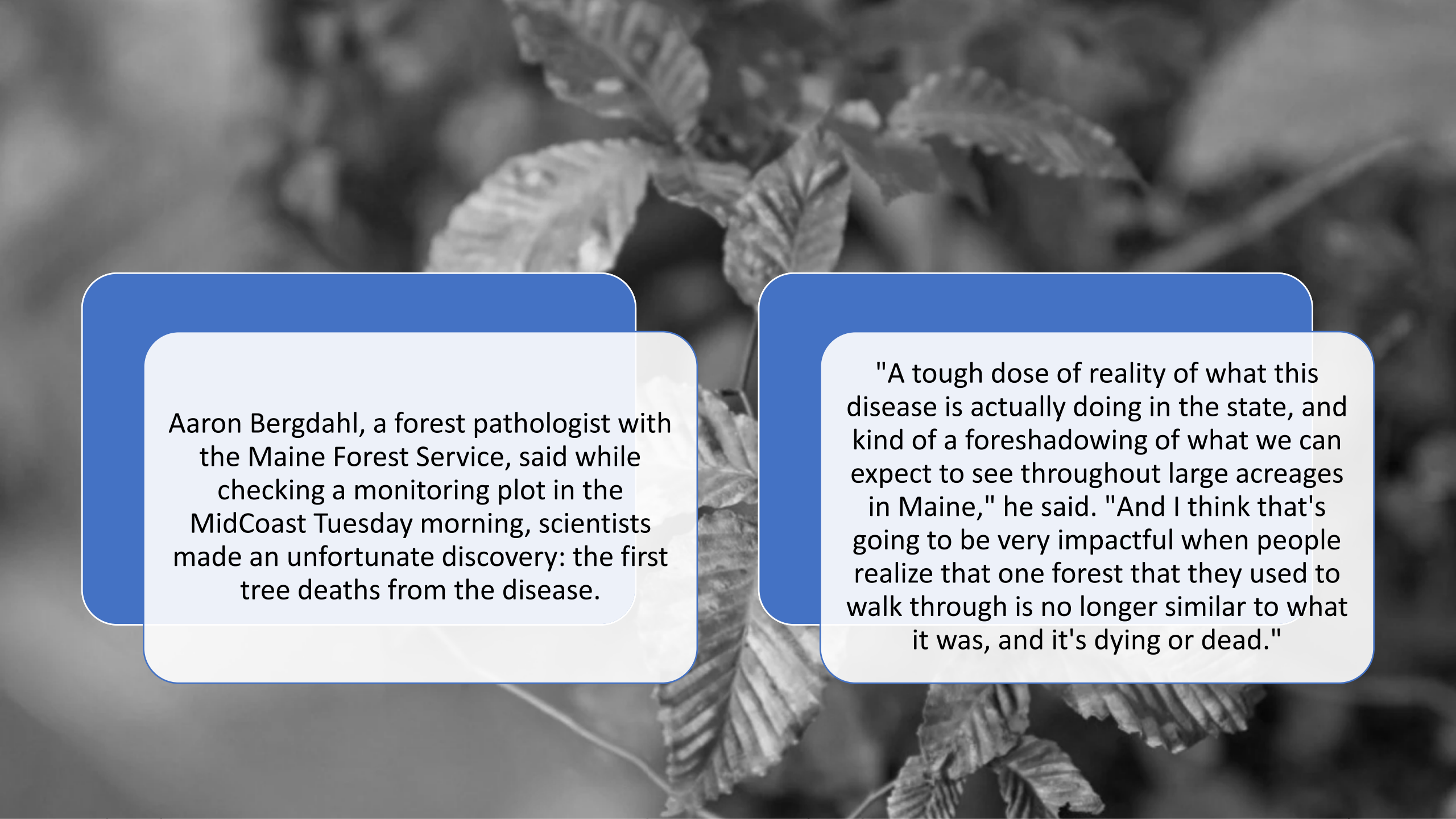
- Knox Co. – 2021
- Lincoln Co. – 2021
- Penobscot Co. – 2021
- Waldo Co. – 2021
- Hancock Co. – 2022
- Cumberland Co. – 2023
- Kennebec Co. – 2023
- Piscataquis Co. – 2023
- Sagadahoc Co. – 2023
- Washington Co. – 2023
- York Co. – 2023
- Oxford Co. – 2024
- Aroostook Co. – 2024
- Somerset Co. – 2024
- Androscoggin Co. – 2024
- Franklin Co. - 2025



Beech leaf disease symptoms

- Early symptoms - interveinal dark bands as leaves emerge in spring
- Later, leaves thicken, shrivel, curl
- Reduced bud and leaf production
- Mortality
 - 2 – 5 years – saplings
 - ~4 years – mature trees



A grayscale background image showing a close-up of forest leaves, likely beech or similar, with some leaves showing signs of damage or discoloration. The leaves are layered, creating a sense of depth.

Aaron Bergdahl, a forest pathologist with the Maine Forest Service, said while checking a monitoring plot in the MidCoast Tuesday morning, scientists made an unfortunate discovery: the first tree deaths from the disease.

"A tough dose of reality of what this disease is actually doing in the state, and kind of a foreshadowing of what we can expect to see throughout large acreages in Maine," he said. "And I think that's going to be very impactful when people realize that one forest that they used to walk through is no longer similar to what it was, and it's dying or dead."



Emerald ash borer – A reason for concern?

Over 100 million ash trees killed

Recognizing EAB

Up close

Bark splitting



S-shaped galleries under bark



EAB

NOT EAB



Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources



D-shaped exit holes

Recognizing EAB

From afar

Woodpecker activity!!!



USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Crown dieback



04/24/2012

USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



J. Ellis, Purdue University

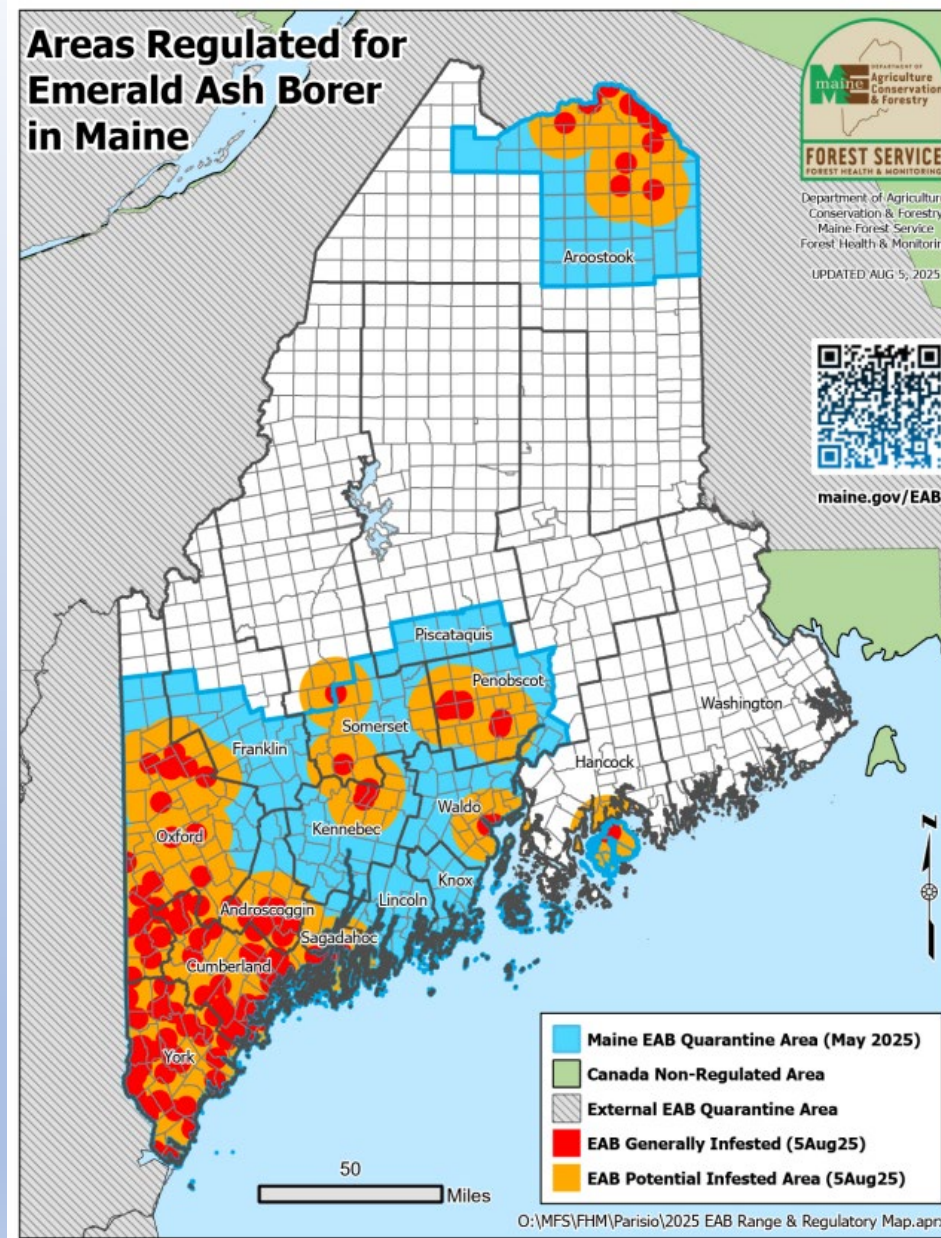
Epicormic shoots

What to look for in the winter



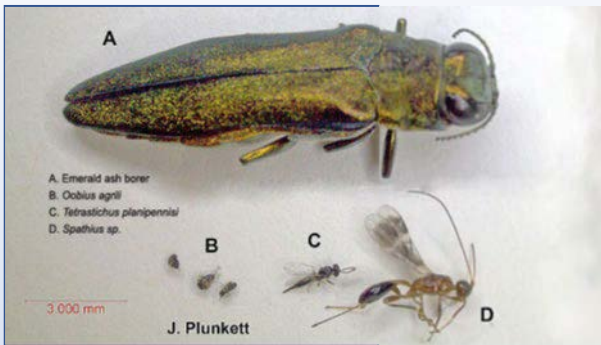
Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

Quarantine Expanded in Aroostook and added MDI



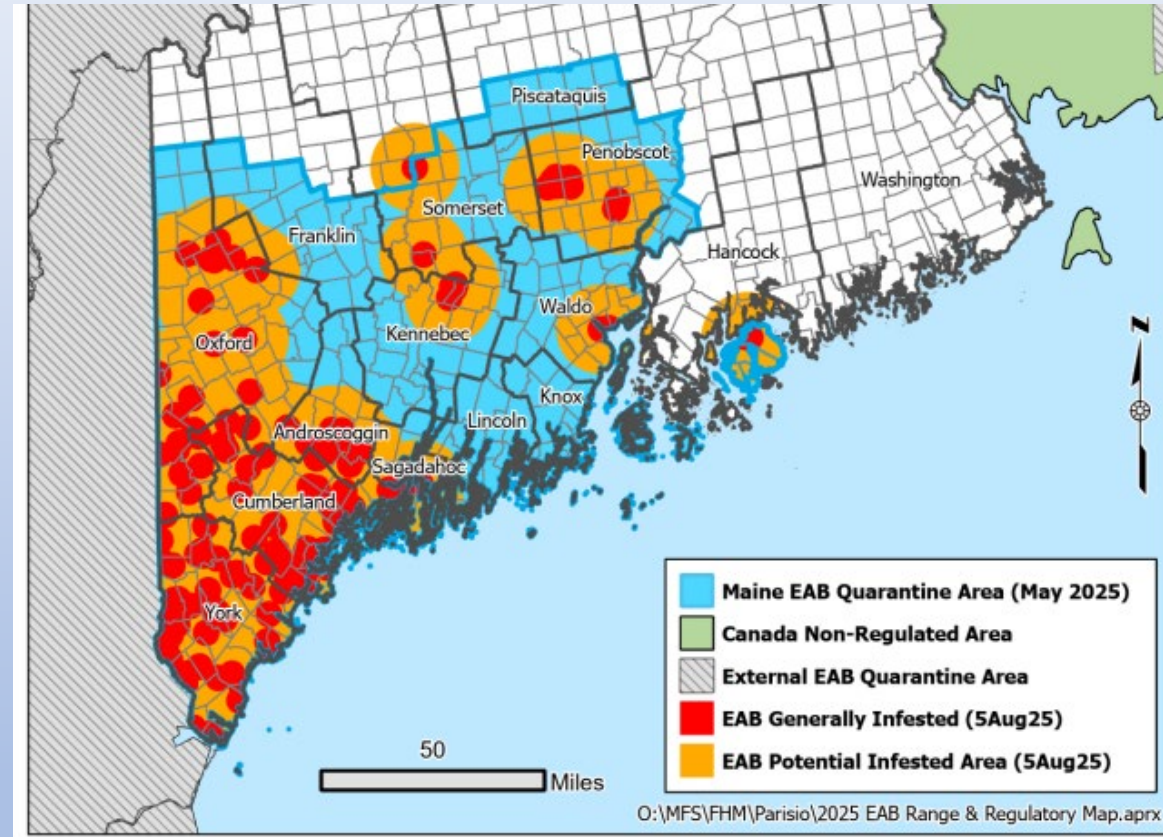
- Quarantine expanded in the northern and southern regions
- 40% of ash still uninfested
- 15 counties now have towns within the EAB quarantine area

<https://maine.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/8ab0defa38514c128e8b6dc67e40d9be>



Emerald
Ash Borer
Quarantine
Southern
Maine

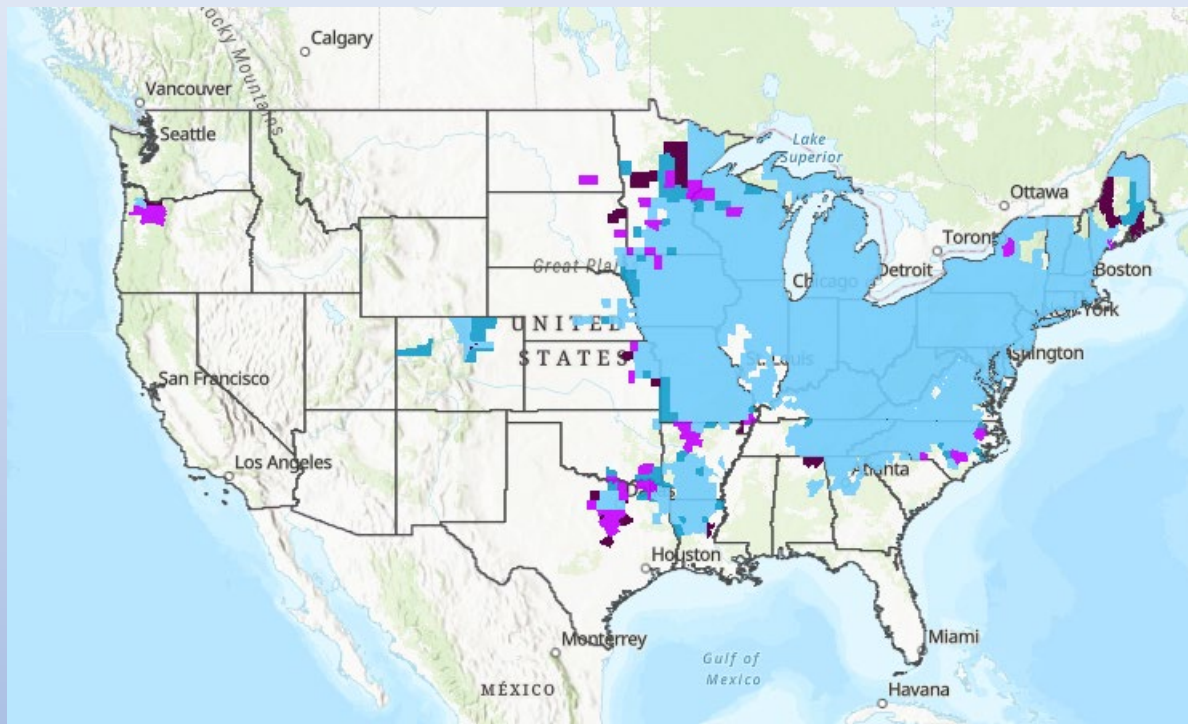
**Mortality is
accelerating**



MDI Added to the Quarantine New infestation found in Belfast

- All of Androscoggin, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and Waldo Counties
- 22 towns in southern Franklin County
- All but 7 northern towns in Oxford County
- 31 Towns in southern Penobscot County

EAB infestations across the US and Canada



<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/eab/eab-infestation-map>



<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/directives/forest-products/03-08/regulated-areas#a1>

Emerald Ash Borer Biocontrol in Maine

Three tiny, non-stinging parasites released at suitable sites with EAB



Oobius agrili
parasitizes
EAB eggs on
ash bark



Tetrastichus planipennisi
parasitizes
EAB larvae
under ash
bark



Spathius galinae
parasitizes
EAB larvae
under ash
bark

These parasites will not save the trees standing now, but they
should help the next generation of ash to survive.



www.maine.gov/eab

Photos: Maine
Forest Service &
UMFK Forestry

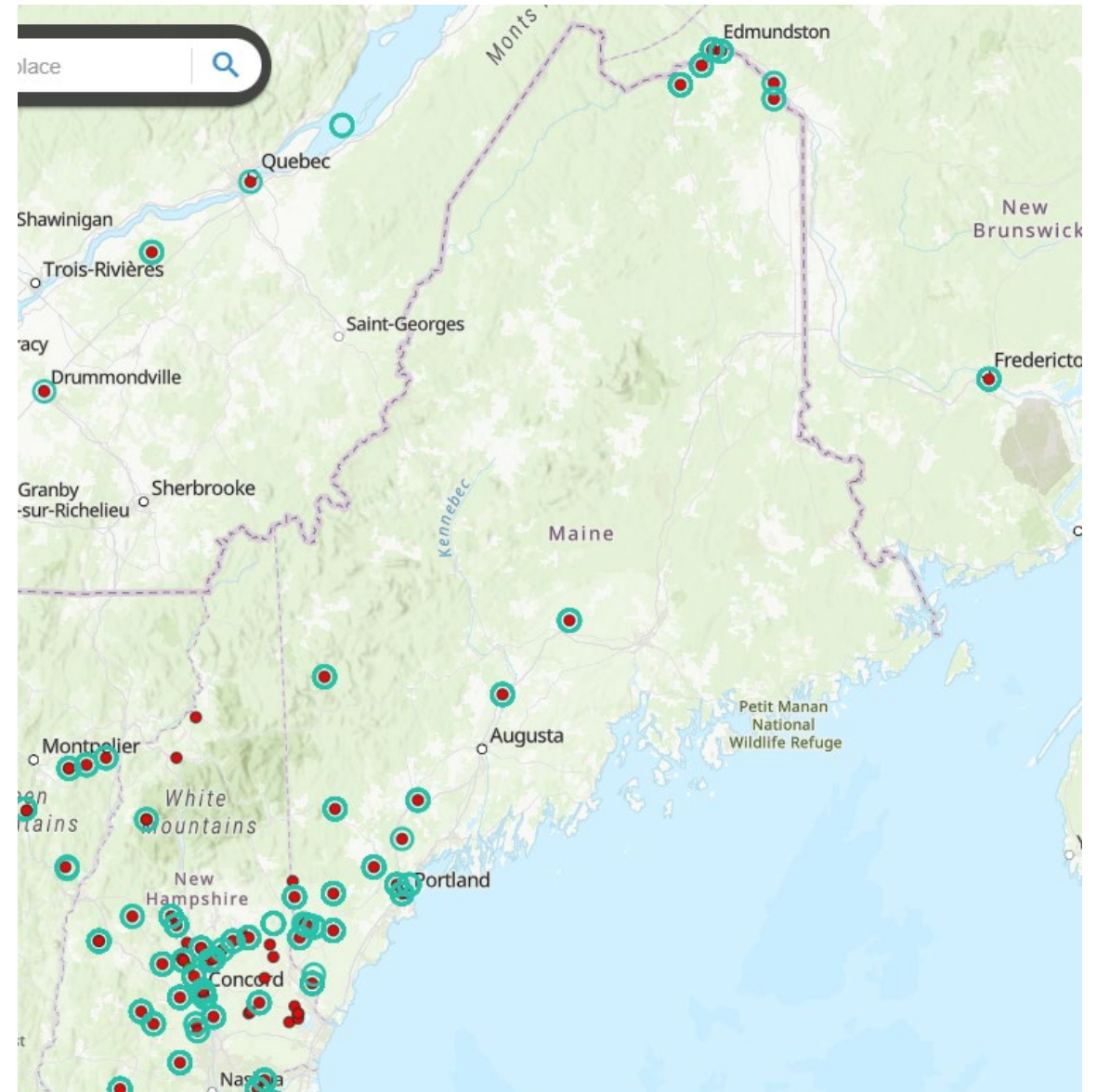
Biological controls may save our future ash

Is it safe to release wasps
since they are non-native
insects?

Before the wasps were
released, research in China
and in the United States
revealed that the wasps
prefer EAB over other
insects

No adverse effects were
found or raised through the
environmental assessment
process

Parasitoid wasp release sites for control of emerald ash borer



<https://msugis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=255045037dbb455a8f836a19e9d4a172>

Winter Moth

Geometrid moth; “inchworm”

Adults
emerge
late Fall



Tom Murray, BugGuide.net

Nov - Jan



Waltham Services

Eggs
overwinter



Gyorgy Csoka,
Hungary Forest
Research Institute,
Bugwood.org

Dec - Apr

Pupa looks
like soil



Maine Forest Service



Hannes Lemme, Bugwood.org

Jun - Nov



Cape Cod Times/Steve Heaslip

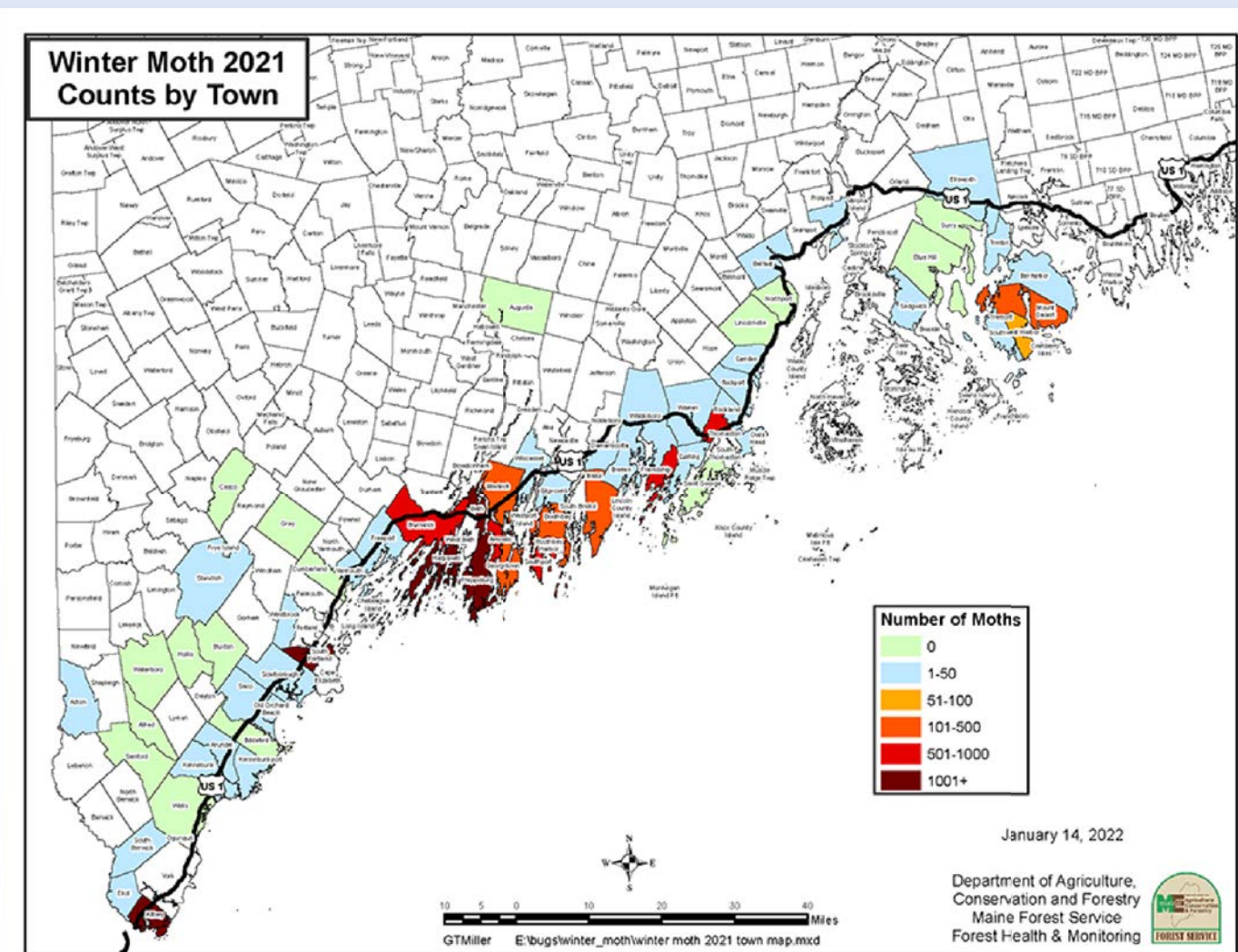
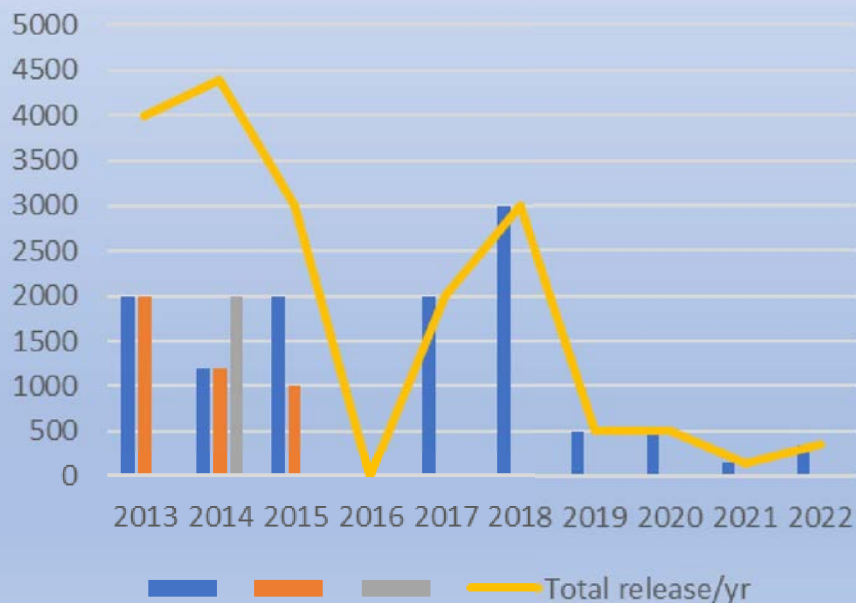
Apr - Jun

Caterpillars
chew leaves

Winter Moth

Damage reported in coastal locations from Kittery to MDI

Cyzenis albicans Releases



Biological control for winter moth

CATERPILLAR COLLECTION SITE	2023 PARASITISM RATES
Bath	18%
Boothbay Harbor	6%
Cape Elizabeth	0%
East Boothbay (first recapture)	41%
Harpswell	2%
Kittery (Release Site)	34%
Kittery (Braveboat Harbor Rd)	23%
South Bristol (first recapture)	36%
South Portland	14%



Town	County	Release Dates	Number of Cyzenis albicans Released	Recovery Comments
Cape Elizabeth	Cumberland	1-May-2013	2,000	First recovery 2016; 27.4% parasitism in 2020
Harpswell	Cumberland	16 & 22-May-2014	1,200	Survival not good
Kittery	York	16 & 23-May-2014	1,200	First recovery 2016; 35.75% parasitism in 2021
Vinalhaven	Knox	21-May-2014	2,000	First recovery in 2018
Portland	Cumberland	15-May-2015	2,000	First recovery in 2018, 4.7% parasitism in 2020
Cape Elizabeth	Cumberland	15-May-2015	1,000	In 2021 parasitism rates at 10.95%
Harpswell	Cumberland	Cage set: 15-Nov-2016	2,000	First recovery 2020 0.85% parasitism in 2021
South Portland	Cumberland	Cage set: 29-Nov-2017	3,000	0.84% parasitism in 2021
Bath	Sagadahoc	21-May- 2020	500	Few flies emerged; cage was tampered with. 5.71% parasitism in 2021 (first recovery)
Boothbay Harbor	Lincoln	29-April-2020	500	Great emergence
East Boothbay Harbor	Lincoln	17-May-2021	150	Good emergence
South Bristol	Lincoln	5-May- 2022	329	Great emergence with breeding observed
South Bristol	Lincoln	May 1 2023	447	Great emergence
West Bath	Sagadahoc	Cage set: oct 13,2023	1300	To be released May 2024

Cyzenis albicans

Browntail Moth

Euproctis chrysorrhoea

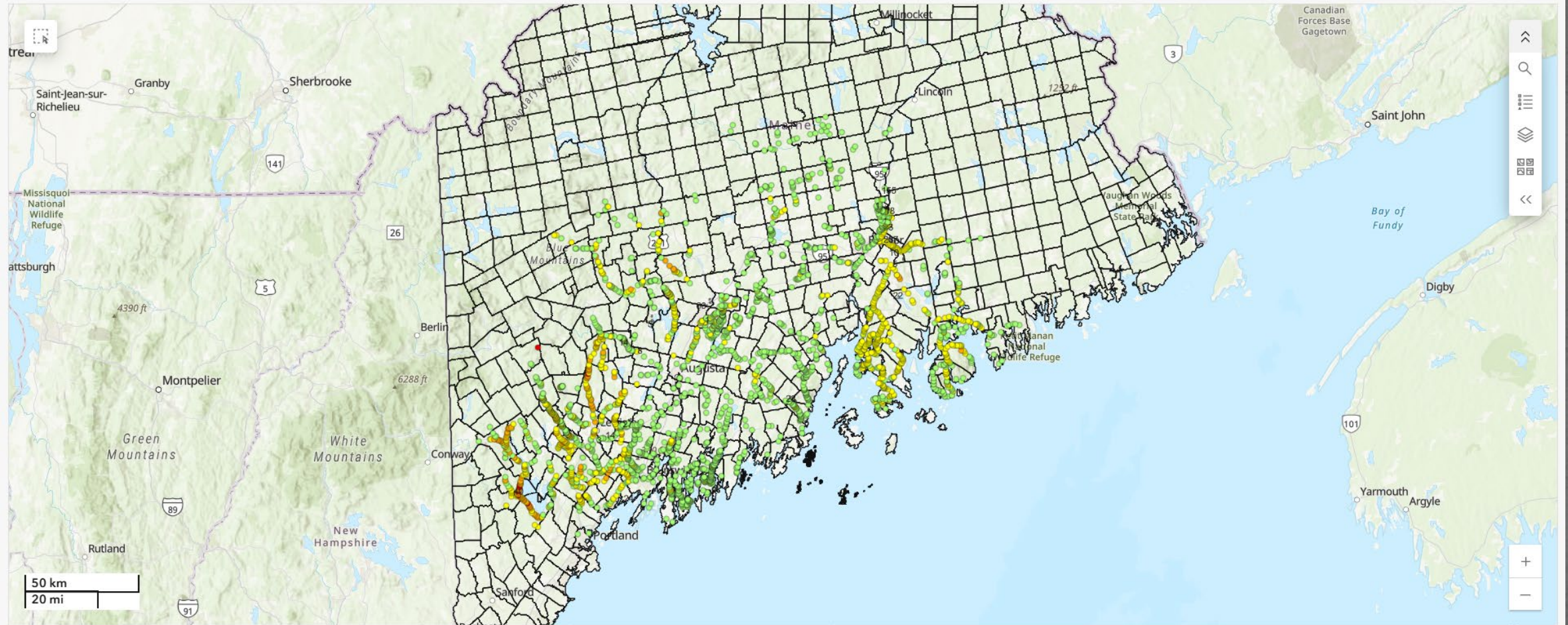
- Invasive insect from Europe
 - Order: Lepidoptera (moths)
 - Family: Lymantriidae
- Caterpillars have toxic hairs



BTM Dashboard



Browntail Moth (BTM) Dashboard



Esri, USGS | Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS | MaineIT GIS, Maine GeoLibrary, MaineDOT, USGS, USDC, Census Bureau | Maine Forest Service (MFS)

Powered by Esri

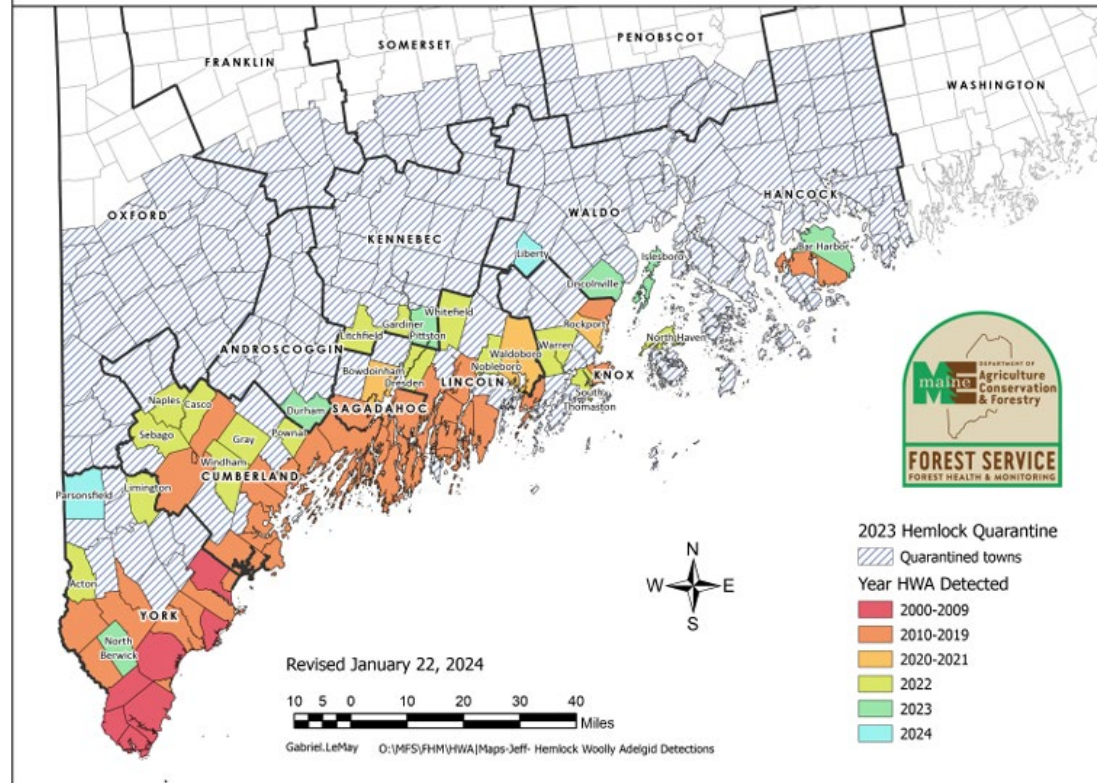
- <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/8f2931a691374ac9853636e71cbb1f40>



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Quarantine

**Adopted
November 1, 2023**

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Detections In Maine Forests Through 2024



- 15 new detections in 2022 - 2023
- Expanding east and inland
- 12 Counties now have towns within the HWA quarantine area

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Look at undersides of HEMLOCK twigs



- Discrete white cottony balls at BASE of needles
- found in newer growth
- most visible November thru July

1 – 2 punch for hemlocks

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



Hemlock tree infested with
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



Look for white cottony masses
on the undersides of branches

Elongate Hemlock Scale



Hemlock tree infested with
Elongate Hemlock Scale



Hemlock tree infested with Elongate
Hemlock Scale and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Firewood
is a major
source of
deadly
forest
insects &
diseases

Don't
Move
Firewood!

Signs at border crossings
& visitor centers



Help Slow the Spread of **Invasive Pests** in Maine Forests

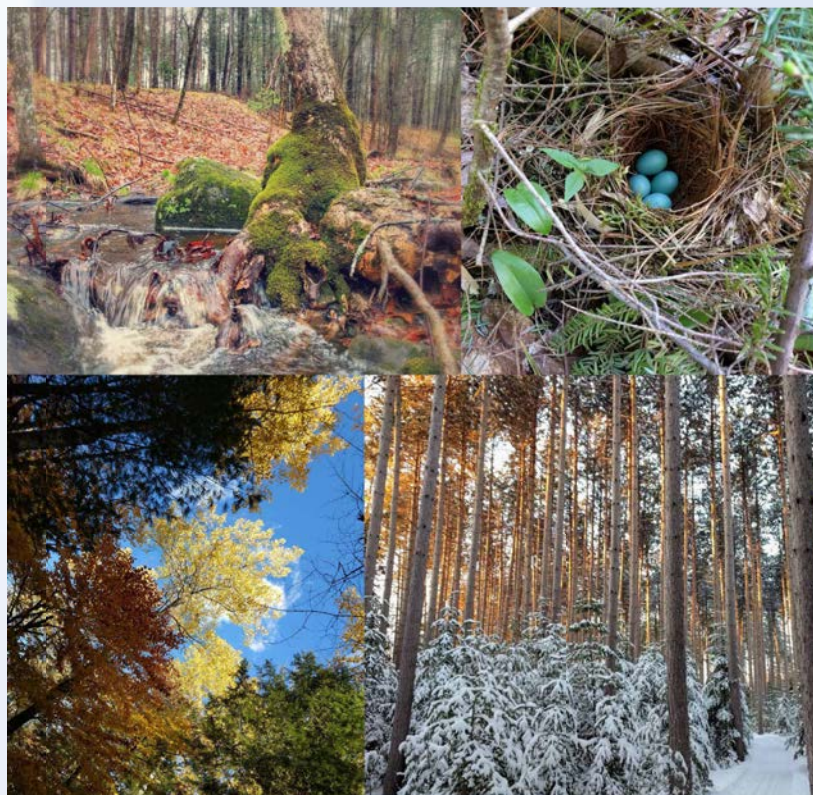
Forests cover 89 % of the land in Maine. They provide:

Environmental benefits...

- Clean water and air
- Provide habitat and food
- Stabilize soil
- Remove CO₂ from atmosphere

...and economic benefits.

- \$8.5 billion and 33,500 jobs in the forest economy
- Additional jobs and \$ in Maine agriculture, tourism, and recreation economies



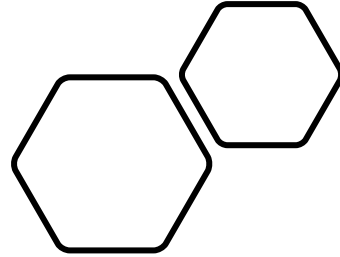
What can **you** do?

- ✓ Use local or heat-treated firewood
- ✓ Check trees for signs of pests and diseases
- ✓ Report signs of invasive pests to Bugwatch@maine.gov
- ✓ Visit www.maine.gov/firewood to learn more

What **else** can **you** do?

- ✓ Use native, locally grown planting material
- ✓ Don't move soil/compost with pests (winter moth, jumping worms)
- ✓ Use an integrated approach to pest management, reduce use of pesticides
- ✓ Use pollinator-friendly practices
- ✓ Learn more, sign up for our newsletters at www.maine.gov/foresthealth
- ✓ **Spread the word, not the pests!**

What you can do!



Report invasive species

- bugwatch@maine.gov
- <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/me/dacf/mfs-tree-ailment>
- invasives.mnap@maine.gov
- milfoil@maine.gov
- <https://www.maineogt.org/>
- <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/da099be43ba642799f9c359345257b2f>



Resources

[Home](#) » [About Maine](#) » Invasive Species

INVASIVE SPECIES

What is an invasive species?

An invasive species is a non-native species (including seeds, eggs, spores, or other propagules) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health. The term "invasive" is used for the most aggressive non-native species. These species grow and reproduce rapidly, and can spread with or without human help, causing major disturbances to the areas where they are present.

Search Maine.gov



TOP ONLINE SERVICES

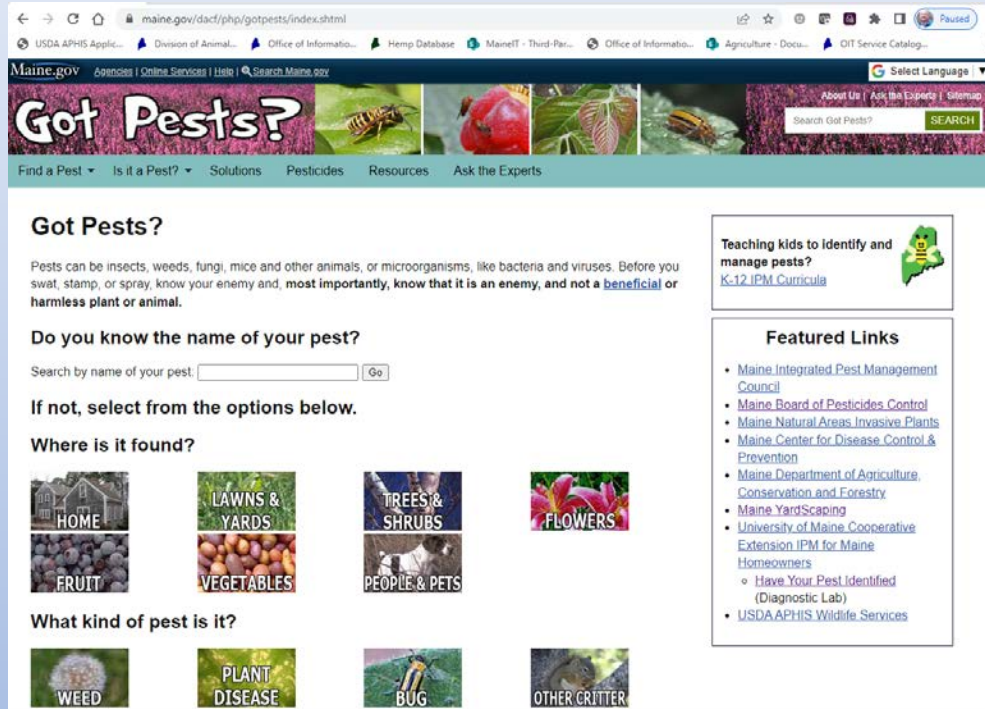
[Birth, Marriage, & Death Record Searches](#)

[Public Criminal History Records](#)

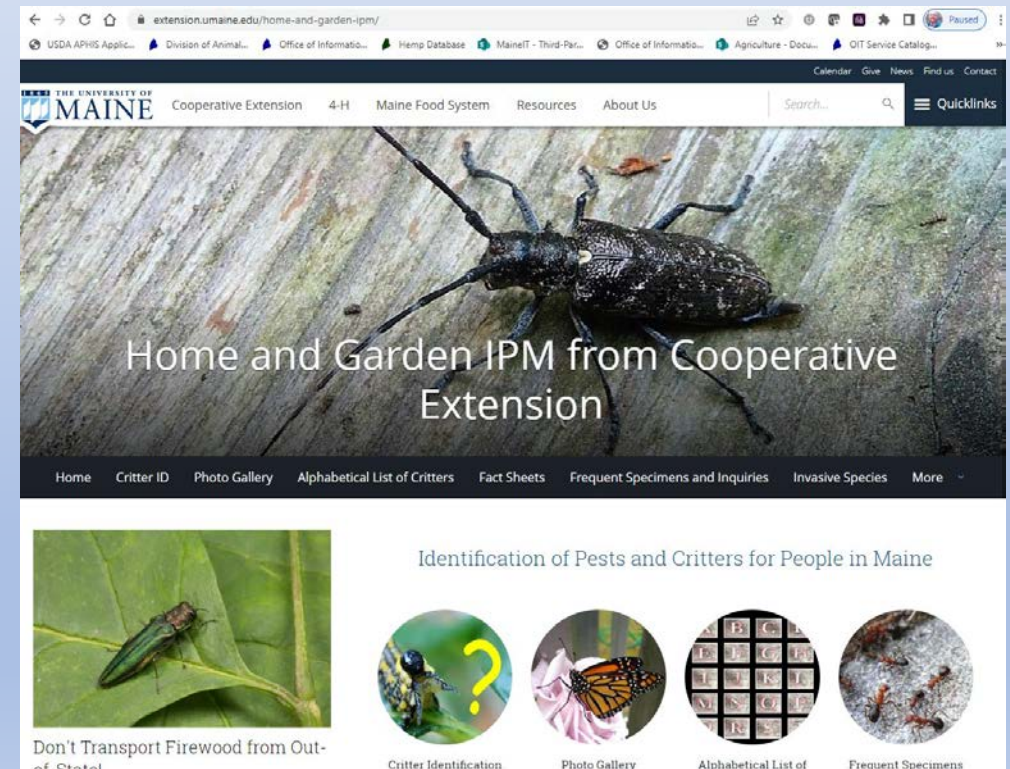
[Ask a Maine Reference Librarian](#)

[Ask a Law or Legislative Reference](#)

Pest management resources



<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/gotpests/index.shtml>



<https://extension.umaine.edu/home-and-garden-ipm/>



Questions?

Gary Fish

Maine State
Horticulturist

gary.fish@maine.gov

207-287-7545

Use this QR to download a copy of the slides.

