

FLORIDA IS AT HIGH RISK FOR INVASIVE PESTS



Florida's year-round temperate to tropical climate, high annual rainfall, and variety of ecosystems make it easy for introduced pests to establish here.

In addition to Florida's natural biodiversity, the state is home to various agricultural commodities, including citrus, sugarcane, small grains, tropical fruits, nursery stock, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Florida is home to many airports, shipping ports and highways that can act as pathways for invasive pests to enter the state. Imported goods from other countries and states are at risk of carrying pests. Plant diseases and insect eggs, in particular, may be introduced through fresh produce or nursery stock entering Florida.

Several agencies conduct initial inspections of imported items at various points of entry; CAPS is unique because the program monitors sites within the state where invasive pests are likely to establish if they evade this first line of defense.



FIND SOMETHING?

If you find a potentially invasive insect, mollusk or weed, or have a diseased plant, contact the DPI helpline to have it identified by our specialists.

CONTACT OUR HELPLINE:
1-888-397-1517



[FDACS.gov/PI](https://fdacs.gov/PI)



Cover photos (clockwise from top left): A cabbage palm in a natural area exhibiting symptoms of lethal bronzing; a trap for pink bollworm, *Pectinophora gossypiella*, placed in an okra field; corn plants exhibiting stunting and chlorosis on the edge of a field; a Lindgren funnel trap used for monitoring various wood boring beetles hanging in a pine in a state park.

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COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY

Florida's Second Line of Defense
Against Invasive Plant Pests





WHAT IS CAPS?

The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) is dedicated to the detection and monitoring of invasive plant pests that threaten Florida's agricultural commodities and natural resources.

The CAPS program is a joint effort between the United States Department of Agriculture and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry (FDACS-DPI).

Part of the CAPS mission is to determine where pests may enter or become established in Florida.

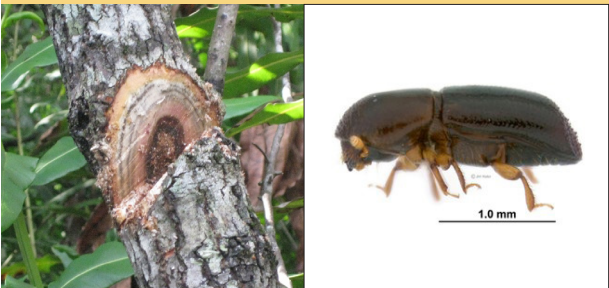
Early detection of pests prevents pests from establishing in Florida, spreading further into the state, or other states. Targets include insects, plant pathogens, mollusks, nematodes and weeds.



EXAMPLES OF TARGET PESTS:

Exotic Wood Boring Beetle Survey

Redbay ambrosia beetle, laurel wilt fungus, and laurel tree hosts (ex. avocado)



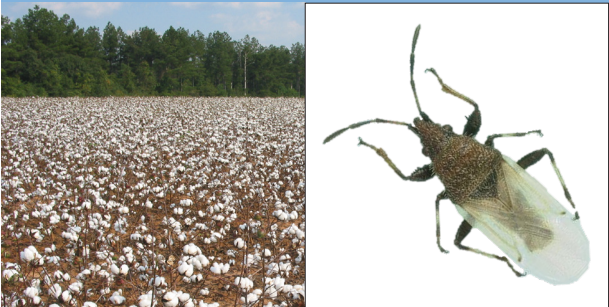
Mollusk Survey

Invasive mollusks like Giant African land snail in industrial and shipping centers



Cotton Commodity Survey

Pests, like cotton seed bug, in commercial cotton fields and naturalized wild cotton



SURVEYS

The CAPS target list of pests is determined through risk analysis and identification of pest pathways, with target pests reviewed and updated every year. Surveys are conducted in sites where a pest is likely to establish due to environmental factors, such as the availability of host plants and proximity to high-risk areas like ports. State parks are prime territory for survey as they possess a dense cross section of Florida's biodiversity.

Locations of Interest for Survey:

traditional and organic fields
ports of entry
commercial nurseries
garden centers
packing facilities
natural areas

Survey methods include trapping for insects using specific lures, visually inspecting plants for insect damage or pathogen symptoms, and collecting plant or soil samples for testing at FDACS-DPI.

