

# Responding to Emerging Critical Plant Pests Issues in North Carolina



NCDA&CS-Plant Industry Division

.....Implementing Effective Plant Pest Regulatory Programs

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## Presentation Overview

- **Mission and Objectives of NCDA&CS**
- **Framing the Problem**
- **March of the Invasive Species**
- **Safeguarding North Carolina's Agriculture and Forestry**
- **Meeting the Challenges Ahead**



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# Mission and Objectives-NCDA&CS

- **Departmental Mission**

NCDA&CS' mission is to provide services to our producers and agribusinesses, along with enforcing laws to protect their interests.

- **Divisional Mission**

–NCDA&CS-Plant Industry Division's mission is to implement a regulatory compliance program for the seed and fertilizer industries and protect agriculture from invasive species.



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# Framing the Problem

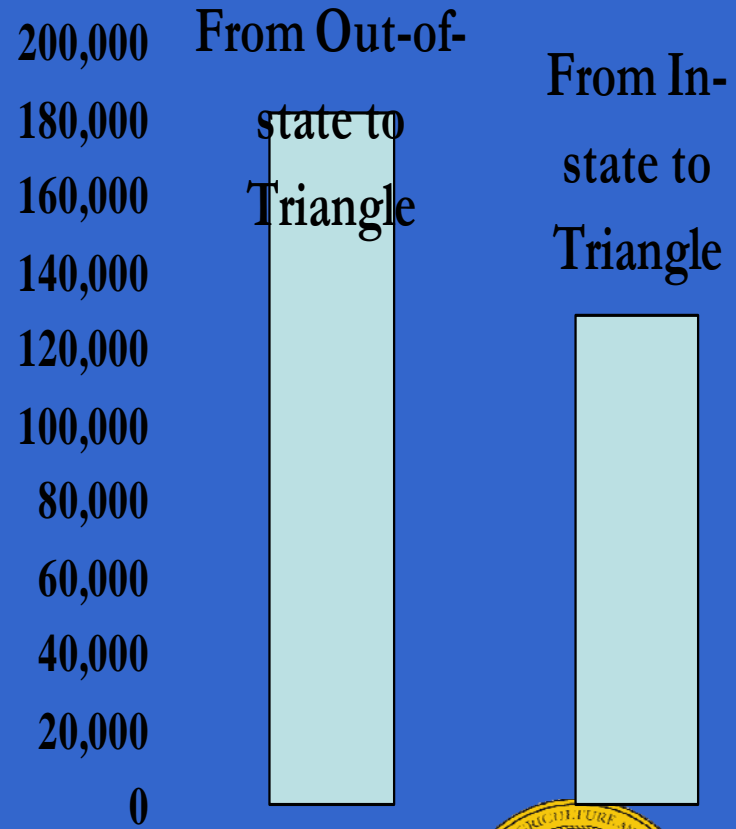
- Estimates place the number of introduced non-native species in the U.S. at 50,000.
- Estimates for economic damages vary...current studies place the values at \$120 billion/year.
- Multiple ecological problems—lack of controlling natural enemies, new associations, highly adaptable species.
- Development and implementation of sound prevention policies.



# Framing the Problem

## Destination: Triangle

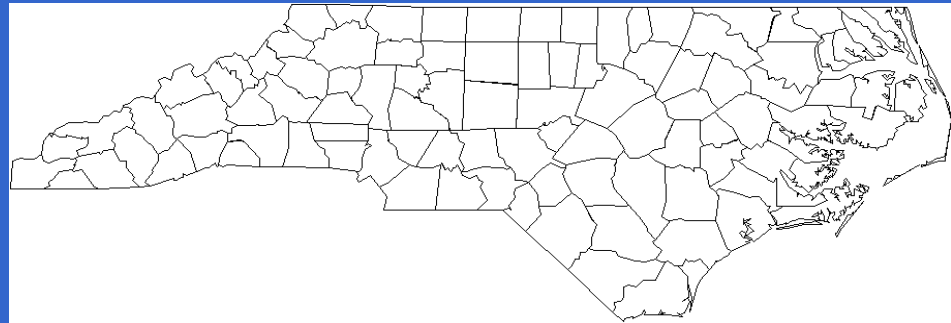
“Data that show where Triangle emigrants are coming from reveal a broad-based migration from all over the country-not just the North. They show also that more out-of-staters than North Carolinians are moving here, indelibly changing the nature and makeup of the area.”



# Framing the Problem

The problem is not isolated or confined to the Triangle area alone.

## Destination: North Carolina



A study by United Van lines notes Americans are still moving to North Carolina at a higher rate than any other state in the country. North Carolina had the highest inbound moving rate for the second straight year.



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# Framing the Problem

“Area retailers large and small are responding to the demands of their new customers.”

“We have expanded offerings in several categories, including more kosher products, more fine wines from California and a larger selection of all varieties of ethnic cuisine introduced in Northern cities.”



# March of the Invasive Species

- The introduction, establishment and spread of invasive species into North Carolina is affecting agriculture and environment.
  - Regulatory introduction of *Phytophthora ramorum*
  - Recent introductions of both Thousand Cankers Disease and Emerald Ash Borer in Tennessee.
- Human activities, including trade, travel and tourism have all increased—substantially paving the way for the unprecedented movement of invasive species.
  - NC agricultural exports continue to increase
  - Federal phytosanitary certificates issued by NCDA&CS alone increased from 1,554 to 1,964, Federal agency issued 7,992.
  - Movement of commodities occurred to 64 countries, 19 states and Puerto Rico.
  - Top five commodities included lumber, tobacco, cotton, cotton seed, and Christmas trees.



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# Safeguarding North Carolina's Agriculture and Forestry

- **North Carolina Invasive Species Advisory Committee**

- **Established by the Commissioner of Agriculture**

- **Purposes**

- **Provide statewide coordination and leadership regarding invasive species.**
    - **Ensure state agency activities are coordinated, complementary, cost-effective and effectively implemented.**
    - **Encourage state agency planning and action.**
    - **Develop coordinated network.**
    - **Encourage the sharing of information related to invasive species.**



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# Safeguarding North Carolina's Agriculture and Forestry

- **General Membership**

- NCD&CS
- Office of the Governor
- Department of State Treasurer
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Land Grant University System
- Ex-officio member: USDA, APHIS, PPQ



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# Safeguarding North Carolina's Agriculture and Forestry

- **Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS) Program**

- Joint initiative between the USDA, APHIS, PPQ and NCDA&CS funding domestic surveys of plant pests.

- Survey Targets: Emerald Ash Borer, Exotic Cotton and Fruit Lepidoptera, Exotic Bark Beetles, Exotic Wood Wasps, Soybean Pests, Light Brown Apple Moth



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# Safeguarding North Carolina's Agriculture and Forestry

- **Regulated Pest Programs in North Carolina**
  - Nursery and Garden Center Program
  - Noxious Weeds
  - Sirex
  - Snails
  - Boll Weevil
  - Imported Fire Ant
  - Sweetpotato weevil
  - Gypsy Moth
  - Whitepine Blister Rust
  - Tobacco and Vegetable Plant Certification Programs



# 2010 Gypsy Moth Aerial Applications



- 2010 Treatment Acreage: 10,791
- Included Btk, Gypcheck and Mating Disruption (Pheromone Flakes)
- Treatment operations in seven counties



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# Sudden Oak Death Response



Each detection results in additional plant, soil, media and water sampling with repeat surveys at 45 and 90 day intervals.



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# Meeting the Challenges Ahead

 •NCPlants- **Plants** A project funded by USDA-Specialty Crop Block Grant will enable our state's nursery and garden center operations to officially record their plant material acquisitions.

- Exploration of tracking technologies for commodities.
- Pest Infestation Emergency Eradication Fund-Concept would provide for a reserve account that could be utilized in the event of an emergency plant pest introduction
- Additional funding support for the Gypsy Moth Program



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# Meeting the Challenges Ahead

## How to get involved?

- Make a commitment to understand federal and state quarantines related to invasive plant species.
- Learn about invasive plant species in your area and what can be done to reduce their impacts.
- Actively look for and report suspects to NCDA&CS (Email: [newpest@ncagr.gov](mailto:newpest@ncagr.gov) or phone 1-800-206-9333)
- Consider volunteering with groups involved in invasive species initiatives.
- Encourage and participate in efforts to raise public awareness and establish policies related to invasive plant species in North Carolina.

**Public Awareness and Communication are the Keys!**



# Solutions do not include.....



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## Contact Information

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The fastest way to accomplish something  
is not by working as fast as you can, but  
as steadily as you can. *Dennis Rogers*



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