



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

*We're working for
Western Australia.*

Western Australia's priority Hitchhiking pests

LOOK – ACT – REPORT



Many invasive pests and diseases not established in Western Australia are expert hitchhikers, and pose a serious threat to our primary industries, natural environment and everyday lives.

Everyone needs to play a part in preventing their entry and spread.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development works closely with other governments and industry to reduce the risk of unwanted pests entering WA, with robust pre-border, border and post-border controls.

However, the increasing volume of freight, mail, travellers and vehicles crossing WA's borders is posing an increasing challenge to find every pest. Pests such as invasive beetles, snails, ants and bees can hide inside shipping containers, furniture and even luggage!

You can help maintain WA's strong biosecurity system.

If you are transporting, handling, buying or receiving goods from interstate or overseas, adopt simple biosecurity measures, and make

looking and reporting suspicious pests a part of everyday life.

Enhanced prevention and surveillance delivers the best outcomes. It keeps invasive pests at bay, and provides our trading partners with evidence that a pest is absent from WA. In the event of a pest incursion, it maximises the opportunity for eradication or containment.

This guide is a snapshot of WA's high priority pest threats likely to be associated with imported goods, and provides advice on what to look for, where to look, how to safely open and unload, and how to report.

We don't expect you to be a bug expert – but sometimes a biosecurity risk is easy to spot!

High priority hitchhiking pests for Western Australia

Exotic and invasive pests have the potential to significantly impact food crops, harm human and animal health, and damage our beautiful environment. Some pests could even change our way of life forever.

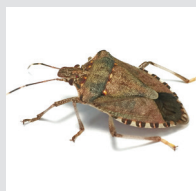
Help protect WA by learning more about the pest hitchhikers that pose the greatest threat, and report any suspect sightings.

Khapra beetle



A pest of stored grains, rice, almonds, pecans, pistachios, walnuts and dried grapes. It destroys grain quality, making it unfit for human or animal consumption.

Brown marmorated stink bug



A pest of apples and pears, berries, cherries, cotton, dried grapes, hazelnuts, pecans, table grapes, truffles, walnuts and vegetables. Saliva causes significant damage to plant tissues. Known to also invade homes and other buildings in their thousands.

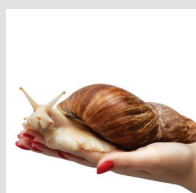
Image: Kristie Graham, USDA ARS, Bugwood.org

Invasive ants



Includes red imported fire ant, yellow crazy ant, electric ant, tropical fire ant and browsing ant. They can form super colonies, displace native ants, and impact livestock, agricultural yields, human and animal health and our way of life.

Exotic snails



Includes giant African snail, golden apple snail, and chocolate banded snail. Invasive snails can feed on a wide range of crops and water plants, and negatively impact agriculture and the environment.

Image: © Marina Bagrova

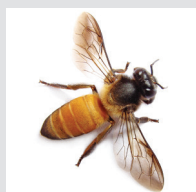
Asian gypsy moth



Caterpillars are voracious eaters and can completely defoliate trees. Feeds on some 600 species such as oak, birch, aspen, eucalyptus, holly, rose, fruit trees and ornamental plants and could significantly impact our environment and agriculture industries.

Image: © Mirek Kijewski

Exotic honey bees



Includes Asian honey bee, giant honey bee, dwarf honey bee, Cape honey bee, African honey bee and Africanised honey bee. They can bring in mites and other pests and diseases, and can be aggressive, robbing honey from European honey bees and taking over hives.

Image: © Karunakar Rayker, Flickr.com

“Biosecurity should be part of everybody’s business, everyday practices, everywhere.”

European wasp



One of the world’s worst wasps that aggressively scavenge on human food and drink, and build huge underground nests. They can impact people, outdoor lifestyles and horticulture industries, rob beehives, and predate on bees, insects and small animals.

Image: John Ghent, Bugwood.org

Exotic longhorn beetles and tree borers



Includes burnt pine longhorn beetle, Asian longhorn beetle, white spotted longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle, oriental powderpost beetle, and shot hole borers. Larvae bore into the wood of living trees or dead parts of trees, and into untreated timber, buildings and furniture. They could significantly impact Australia’s apple and pear orchards, destroy forests and native bush, or cause serious structural damage.

Exotic termites and timber borers



Includes European house borer, drywood termite, western drywood termite, West Indian drywood termite, formosan subterranean termite and Asian subterranean termite. They are a major pest of softwood and hardwood structural timber. They can survive for years without detection, and termite colonies can build to thousands.

Image: © Alexander Hasenkampf

Honey bee with varroa mite attached to thorax.

In addition to invading our bee colonies, exotic bees can bring in parasitic mites (eg. varroa mite) that attack and feed on honey bees.

Image: © Bee-individual

If you are transporting, handling, buying or receiving imported goods, help protect Western Australia: adopt preventative biosecurity measures, and make looking and reporting a part of everyday life.

Look

What to look for:

- Live or dead animals, including insects.
- Egg masses on any surface (which can resemble pale furry lumps).
- Plant matter, soil or mud – often combined and attached to a surface (eg. on machinery).
- Holes in timber or frass (the powdery ‘sawdust’ like substance expelled from the timber when there is borer activity).
- Mosquito activity around pooled water.

Where to look:

- Inside and on the outside surface of shipping containers. Check corners and metal lips.
- In machinery and vehicles in break bulk cargo.
- In timber (eg. pallets).
- In packaging including plastic wrapping and cardboard boxes.
- Food stuffs and imported household goods.
- Luggage.
- Furniture from overseas.

Act

When opening imported cargo and packages:

- Vehicles, machinery etc. that are delivered on pallets should be opened on concrete, and if possible in a contained environment.
- Do not open imported containers/packages in the paddock or close to crops or storage.
- Check packaging/goods carefully.

If you find something:

- Close the container/package or create a barrier.
- Isolate the affected items from other goods.
- Use tarpaulins or blankets to cover the item/area.
- Take photos, record the location and collect a specimen if safe to do so.
- A knockdown spray will cause the insects to disperse. Only use as a last resort to prevent insects escaping.
- Report suspect pests IMMEDIATELY – even if unsure they are a pest.

Report

In imported goods, containers and parcels

Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

- See. Secure. Report. hotline 1800 798 636
- awe.gov.au/report

You will not be prosecuted if you or someone you know has accidentally imported risk material.

On your property

WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Pest and Disease Information Service

- (08) 9368 3080
- padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

MyPestGuide

- MyPestGuide™ Reporter app
- mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au



More information

Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

- agriculture.gov.au/cargopests

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