



**Nebraska Invasive Species Council**  
**Terrestrial Invasive Insect Species List\* – Updated 02/16/2026**

**\*DISCLAIMER**

As opposed to aquatic invasive species and noxious weeds, **there is no official list of Nebraska’s invasive terrestrial (land-dwelling) insect species created by a regulatory agency in the state. This list is unofficial; it is not for regulatory purposes.**

Instead, this list is intended to serve two purposes:

1. To be used as a resource for the public who encounter one of these insect species and want more information.
2. To encourage the public to report sightings of some of these insect species, which can be shared with regulatory agencies and other organizations to help prevent the insect's spread and/or establishment in Nebraska and/or to help determine possible management strategies.

Species on this list may be included for a variety of reasons. Those reasons may include:

- The insect species shows common characteristics identified as invasive in published scientific literature.
- The insect species is designated as invasive by a regulatory agency and/or government authority in Nebraska and/or a nearby state.
- The insect species’ population is expanding or has expanded rapidly, causing environmental, agricultural, and/or human health damage, and/or acting problematically as determined through credible reports from land managers, landowners, researchers, scientists, and/or the public in Nebraska.

**FEDERAL-LEVEL AND STATE-LEVEL QUARANTINES**

Species on this list may at any time be subject to a federal, state, and/or county level active quarantine that prohibit and/or restrict the movement of plant-related products within Nebraska to limit a specific insect species spread and introduction to new areas across the state. For more information on active federal-level quarantines, please visit <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/nebraska>. For more detailed information on active state-level quarantines, please visit <https://nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology>.

## **INVASIVE SPECIES**

Invasive species are plants, animals, or other organisms that are found in an area where they do not naturally exist, and their introduction to that area does or is likely to harm the environment, economy, or human health. They may be from an area very far away (non-native), such as another continent, country, or state, or from an area close by (native), such as another county, city, or neighboring habitat.

Invasive species are usually brought to the new area by someone or something, either accidentally or on purpose, through trade, travel, recreation, e-commerce, land/resource use change, or unwanted/accidental pet release. Once introduced to a new environment, they spread quickly and aggressively, harming other wildlife by using up their resources, such as food, water, and habitat, that they need to survive. Since they are new to the area, they often don't have natural predators, which allows their population to expand at alarming rates.

There are two types of invasive species in Nebraska: terrestrial (land-dwelling) and aquatic (water-dwelling).

## **COMMON CHARACTERISTICS**

For a species to be considered invasive, it typically possesses one or more of the following traits:

1. **Non-Native Origin:** An invasive species is introduced to an ecosystem outside of its natural range. This introduction can occur intentionally, such as through the import of ornamental plants or pets, or accidentally, such as through ballast water in ships or contaminated goods.

2. **Rapid Reproduction and Spread:** Invasive species often reproduce quickly and in large numbers. They can adapt to a variety of environments, allowing them to spread far and wide.
3. **Ecological Disruption:** Invasive species can out-compete native species for resources like food, water, and space. They may also prey on native species or introduce diseases, leading to declines in native populations.
4. **Lack of Natural Predators:** In their new environment, invasive species often have few or no natural predators to keep their populations in check. This allows them to thrive unchecked.

## **TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE INSECTS**

Terrestrial invasive insects include exotic, non-native, or new to the area insects that are land-dwelling, meaning they live in non-aquatic habitats, including agricultural fields, prairies, rangelands, forests, urban landscapes, wildlands, and along waterways.

Terrestrial invasive insects are invertebrates (animals without a backbone). These species can include land-dwelling snails, mollusks, worms, spiders, flies, beetles, moths, ticks, mosquitos, and wasps, among other insects. They pose a significant threat to Nebraska's land-focused resources, supplies, or infrastructure.

With no natural enemies to keep their population in check and their ability to outcompete Nebraska's native species for food and other resources, terrestrial invasive insects can become widespread across a landscape quickly.

## **SPECIES CATEGORIES**

The Nebraska Invasive Species Council created four categories for terrestrial invasive insects that are found in Nebraska. Those categories are as follows:

1. **Watchlist:** potential invasive species that are uncommon but may be present in Nebraska, and their impacts are unknown at this time.
2. **Potential:** invasive species that have not yet been sampled in Nebraska and are considered a high threat.
3. **Priority:** invasive species that are considered highly unwanted species and all efforts should be made to prevent the expansion of their populations.

4. **Established:** invasive species that are well established in Nebraska and total elimination is impossible. Local removal and control are the best that can be expected.

### **WATCHLIST TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES**

Watchlist terrestrial invasive species are potential invasive species that are uncommon but may be present in Nebraska, and their impacts are unknown at this time. **There are currently no known watchlist terrestrial invasive insect species in Nebraska.**

### **POTENTIAL TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES**

Potential terrestrial invasive species are invasive species that have not yet been sampled in Nebraska and are considered a high threat. Those species include:

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Species Name</b>
Asian Longhorned Beetle	<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>
Asian Longhorned Tick	<i>Haemaphysalis longicornis</i>
Cereal Leaf Beetle	<i>Oulema melanopus</i>
Common Pine Shoot Beetle	<i>Tomicus piniperda</i>
Sirex Woodwasp	<i>Sirex noctilio</i>
Spongy Moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>
Spotted Lanternfly	<i>Lycorma delicatula</i>
Walnut Twig Beetle	<i>Pityophthorus juglandis</i>

### **PRIORITY TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES**

Priority terrestrial invasive species are invasive species that are considered highly unwanted species, and all efforts should be made to prevent the expansion of their populations. Those species include:

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Species Name</b>
Asian Jumping Worm	<i>Amyntas</i> spp.
Asian Tiger Mosquito	<i>Aedes albopictus</i>
Emerald Ash Borer	<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>
Gulf Coast Tick	<i>Amblyomma maculatum</i>
Yellow Fever Mosquito	<i>Aedes aegypti</i>

### **ESTABLISHED TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES**

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Established terrestrial invasive species are invasive species that are well established in Nebraska, and total elimination is impossible. Local removal and control are the best that can be expected. Those species include:

Common Name	Species Name
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	<i>Halyomorpha halys</i>
Deer Tick	<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>
Japanese Beetle	<i>Popillia japonica</i>
Lone Star Tick	<i>Amblyomma americanum</i>
Mountain Pine Beetle	<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>

### **COMPLETE TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE INSECT SPECIES LIST**

#	Common Name	Species Name	Category
1	Jumping Worm	<i>Amyntas</i> spp.	Priority
2	Asian Longhorned Beetle	<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	Potential
3	Asian Longhorned Tick	<i>Haemaphysalis longicornis</i>	Potential
4	Asian Tiger Mosquito	<i>Aedes albopictus</i>	Priority
5	Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	<i>Halyomorpha halys</i>	Established
6	Cereal Leaf Beetle	<i>Oulema melanopus</i>	Potential
7	Common Pine Shoot Beetle	<i>Tomicus piniperda</i>	Potential
8	Deer Tick	<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>	Established
9	Emerald Ash Borer	<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>	Priority
10	Gulf Coast Tick	<i>Amblyomma maculatum</i>	Priority
11	Japanese Beetle	<i>Popillia japonica</i>	Established
12	Lone Star Tick	<i>Amblyomma americanum</i>	Established
13	Mountain Pine Beetle	<i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>	Established
14	Sirex Woodwasp	<i>Sirex noctilio</i>	Potential
15	Spongy Moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	Potential
16	Spotted Lanternfly	<i>Lycorma delicatula</i>	Potential
17	Walnut Twig Beetle	<i>Pityophthorus juglandis</i>	Potential
18	Yellow Fever Mosquito	<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	Priority

### **REFERENCES**

National Invasive Species Information Center. *What are invasive species?* U.S. Department of Agriculture. <https://invasivespeciesinfo.gov/what-are-invasive-species>

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