

Nursery Survey Summary

Nurseries in Alaska are locations where quantities of plants may be imported and held temporarily in a small area then disseminated across a wider area as the plants are purchased and taken home by customers and planted in the landscape. This creates an opportunity for plant pests and diseases that are not known to occur in Alaska to be introduced, spread, and established.

This survey aims to provide early detection of important plant pests, identify pathways for future introductions of exotic pests, reach out to nursery owners and employees about exotic pests and establish contacts so that they may be more likely to report pests they find in the future, and update the Alaska Nursery and Stock Dealer Database.

The Nursery Survey is performed in the Spring by the State Survey Coordinator. During each nursery visit, a verbal questionnaire is provided to the manager or owner about the origin of plant materials and pest issues they have encountered. Simultaneously, a visual survey is conducted to assess the health of the nursery stock. Tissue samples may be taken if plant disease is suspected.

Common name/Scientific name

Asian longhorned beetle/Anoplophora glabripennis

European black slug/Arion ater

Maritime garden slug/Ceratomyxa virgata

Cucurbit beetle/Diabrotica speciosa

Western flower thrips/Frankliniella occidentalis

Spotted lanternfly/Lycorma delicatula

Stubby-root nematodes/Paratrichodorus spp.

Ramorum blight; Sudden oak death; Phytophthora ramorum

Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV)/Tobamovirus Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

Tobacco rattle (TRV)/Tobravirus Tobacco Rattle Virus

Tomato spotted wilt (TSWV)/Tospovirus Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus

Christmas Tree Summary

Nurseries, greenhouses, and chain stores in Alaska ship large quantities of cut Christmas trees and wreaths into the state each year; these trees and wreaths are a likely pathway for a myriad of agricultural pests. At the end of the holiday season these trees and wreaths are often dumped on the road system near or in agriculturally significant areas; the proper disposal also puts them near agricultural/forest resources at transfer stations or dump sites. The proximity to agricultural resources upon disposal also represents a significant likely pathway for pests of concern.

The Christmas Tree Survey is a new survey for the Division of Agriculture and is reaching its third and final year as of 2024. The survey consists of a verbal questionnaire about the origin of plant materials, number and type of holiday greenery sold, and disposal methods. In addition, the trees and wreaths are visually assessed for pest or disease. This information is uploaded to a Christmas Tree and Wreath Dealer Database.