

Risk of Invasive Species Movement on Wood Products Other than Firewood

Pests and pathogens can be spread via the transport of unprocessed logs and other wood products to woodworkers, lumber and veneer mills, or other user groups. An outbreak of [laurel wilt](#) was linked to the transportation of infested redbay wood by an amateur woodworker. Thousand cankers disease, which infects [black walnut](#), has been accidentally introduced several places via the woodworking and veneer industries.



photo by Mark Stanley

Woodturners and wood carvers sometimes prefer to use blocks of green wood with bark intact, making it high risk for unknowingly transporting pests. This green wood is traded at the regional, national, and international level. It is sold at large shows, events, and on the Internet as well as traded among individuals.

Outreach efforts to date about the risks associated with non-firewood wood products have focused on educating woodworkers about state quarantines (neither walnut nor redbay is regulated by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), invasive species issues, and the benefits of obtaining wood locally. Wood product users interested in being a part of the solution should become familiar with tree species and the pests they may harbor so that proper precautions can be taken when procuring materials. To learn more about how to help stop invasive species spread, go to the Continental Dialogue's "Insects and Diseases Threaten Your Wood Supplies" at <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/library/activities/2012/WoodTurners.pdf>.

Source: Campbell, F.T. and Schlarbaum, S.E. 2014. Fading Forests III. American Forests: What Choice Will We Make. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. Online at www.nature.org/fadingforests.