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April 2, 2008

Overview of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS)



The goal of the Colorado Department of Agriculture's CAPS program is the early detection of exotic plant pests (diseases, insects, weeds, nematodes, and other invertebrate organisms) that could cause significant economic damage to our agriculture and natural resources. Farmers, ranchers, land owners and the general public can play a vital role in the effort to keep exotic pests out of Colorado.

Targeted surveys are conducted annually using a variety of methods to detect exotic or non-native plant pests that are likely to be introduced to Colorado via commerce, human travel or natural spread. Outreach and education about the potential introduction and impact of exotic plant pests is also an important component of the program.

The CAPS program is funded and directed by the US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), and combines the efforts of the CDA, Colorado State University, Colorado State Forest Service, other state agencies, industries and professional organizations.

This year's cooperative effort includes surveys for Emerald Ash Borer and other exotic woodboring beetles; exotic fruit pests; exotic moths; and surveys and biological control for exotic weeds. Of particular importance is the role that the movement of firewood plays in the spread of pests. We have an extensive effort to educate the public about using locally cut or well seasoned (1-2 years) firewood.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like additional information, please contact John Kaltenbach, CAPS Coordinator, at 303-239-4131.

