

Firewood & Pests

RECOMMENDATIONS



Firewood & Pests Recommendations

from the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS)

To protect Colorado's trees from invasive and harmful tree pests, the CAPS program is recommending that people use firewood from Colorado whenever possible, and to always ensure that their firewood is properly seasoned (see below). In addition, when camping, people should try to buy firewood near their destination campground, to help prevent transporting pests elsewhere.

- **Colorado firewood**

Exotic pests such as the emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, Sirex woodwasp, and the water mold causing sudden oak death can be transported on or in firewood. To help keep these pests out of Colorado, we're encouraging people to use local firewood, rather than firewood from out of state. In the cases where local firewood does not meet the needs of the homeowner, we encourage people to ensure that their firewood has been properly seasoned at the point of origin (see below).

- **Cut, debark, and dry**

Allowing adequate drying time of at least 1 year both improves the quality of the firewood, helps kill insects and pathogens in the firewood, and discourages re-infestation. Cutting (and properly stacking) the wood before drying significantly quickens the drying process. Debarking the firewood will help kill insects, remove egg masses, pupae, or fungal spores attached to the bark, and quicken the drying process. Debarking the firewood may be difficult for individuals to accomplish, but should be done whenever possible.

- **Buy where you camp**

Colorado too has tree pests that are unwanted elsewhere, including mountain pine beetle and banded elm bark beetle, among others. To protect tree resources everywhere, we encourage people to buy firewood near their destination campground. If this is not an option, they should ensure that the firewood they take with them is well-seasoned and completely burned during their visit. Protect your favorite vacation spot, as well as your home.

For additional information on firewood and the potential for spreading harmful exotic and native pests, we recommend the following websites:

CSU Extension:	http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05563.html
Ohio State Univ. Extension:	http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2065.html
USDA Forest Service:	http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab/firewood/index.shtm
Firewood Buying Guidelines:	http://www.colorado.gov/ag/ics

For a listing of firewood dealers providing at least 50% of their wood product from Colorado forests, please go to the CDA Markets Division website at: <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/markets>

