



California Forest Pest Council

# California Forest Pest Council

*Dedicated to protecting California's forests since 1951*

[www.caforestpestcouncil.org](http://www.caforestpestcouncil.org)

## News Release

### **CALIFORNIA FOREST PEST COUNCIL CALLS ON CALIFORNIANS TO HELP STOP INVASIVE SPECIES**

**Date: March 3, 2013**

**Contact: Katie Palmieri  
Public Information Officer  
(510) 847-5482**

SACRAMENTO—With an ever-increasing global economy and long-distance travel commonplace for many households, the threat of harmful invasive species introductions into urban and wildland forests throughout California and the nation is on the rise. In an effort to raise awareness of these issues, the California Forest Pest Council would like to recognize the National Invasive Species Council's National Invasive Species Awareness Week, March 3 – 8, 2013.

Natural resources across the nation are being impacted by invasive species, and California is no exception, with pests and diseases such as Sudden Oak Death, the goldspotted oak borer, and pitch canker killing native California trees and causing millions of dollars in property damage to homeowners and cities in infested areas.

“With a population of approximately 38 million people, it is going to take the collective effort of all Californians to protect our urban and wildland forests from invasive species. The good news is that together we can make a difference, helping to preserve our natural resources for future generations and minimize future expenditures,” said Bob Rynearson, Chair of the California Forest Pest Council.

Prevention measures can be as simple as planting native, locally grown plants; keeping shoes, clothing, pet's paws, and outdoor equipment free of soil, organic material, and weed seeds when traveling from one area to another; and buying or collecting firewood from a local source and burning it locally, leaving behind anything not burned. By following these simple steps, the accidental transfer of insects, pathogens, and invasive weeds that can be harmful to a new environment can be prevented.

MORE...MORE...MORE

**For more information on how to stop invasive species introductions or for information on the California Forest Pest Council and its Task Forces that are addressing invasive species issues, contact Katie Palmieri at (510) 847-5482 or go to <http://caforestpestcouncil.org/>.**

#####

**NOTE TO EDITOR**

- The California Forest Pest Council (CFPC) was founded in 1951 and is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The Council's mission is to foster education concerning forest pests and forest health, and advises the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on forest health protection.
- The CFPC addresses invasive species issues through its Insect, Disease, Weed, Animal Damage, and Southern California Committees as well as through the following task forces, which address invasive species issues that demand more resources: the California Oak Mortality Task Force (Sudden Oak Death), California Firewood Task Force, Pitch Canker Task Force, and the gold spotted oak borer group of the Southern California Committee.