

**Increasing Invasive Species Monitoring and Effectiveness
through the Wisconsin First Detector Network
(USDA APHIS PPQ)**

Invasive species continue to pose a threat to the economy, agriculture, and the environment in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin First Detector Network (WIFDN), established in 2013, was developed to support agency staff in the identification and surveillance of new and emerging invasive pests of concern. While WIFDN has been successful at training professionals, volunteers from other organizations, and environmental educators, gaps still exist in education and outreach. In 2018 we propose to develop focused invasive species training and reporting of high consequence pests for employees of municipalities and interns who work for conservation organizations throughout Wisconsin. These organizations are critical in first detection as they work on public and private lands and have sought assistance in training. Additionally these efforts will provide additional volunteer opportunities for existing volunteers to work in collaboration with these groups throughout the state. We also propose developing a phenology and habitat-specific database to simplify selecting invasive species to target for monitoring. Currently groups have struggled to develop a comprehensive list of species to monitor for, as information is not compiled into a comprehensive source for use with volunteers. This resource will be a direct asset to WIFDN as well as other groups conducting monitoring throughout the state. Through these efforts and past efforts WIFDN will continue to expand its reach by training individuals to educate others about the threat that invasive species pose and increase surveillance for new species. These efforts are needed to continue to protect Wisconsin's resources from invasive species.