



# **Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee**

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# Plant Health



## Plant Protection and Quarantine

Mission: APHIS-PPQ safeguards agriculture and natural resources from the entry, establishment, and spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds into the United States of America; and supports trade and exports of U.S. agricultural products.

## Recent pest issues

### *Laevicaulis alte*, African black slug

- Originated in Africa, but spread to Asia
- Pest to a variety of vegetables and ornamentals
- Can carry rat lungworm, which is a nematode that is capable of spreading meningitis
- Seen once in south Texas in 1980s
- Known distribution limited to residential areas in Harlingen and Brownsville



## Recent pest issues

### *Paracoccus marginatus*, papaya mealybug

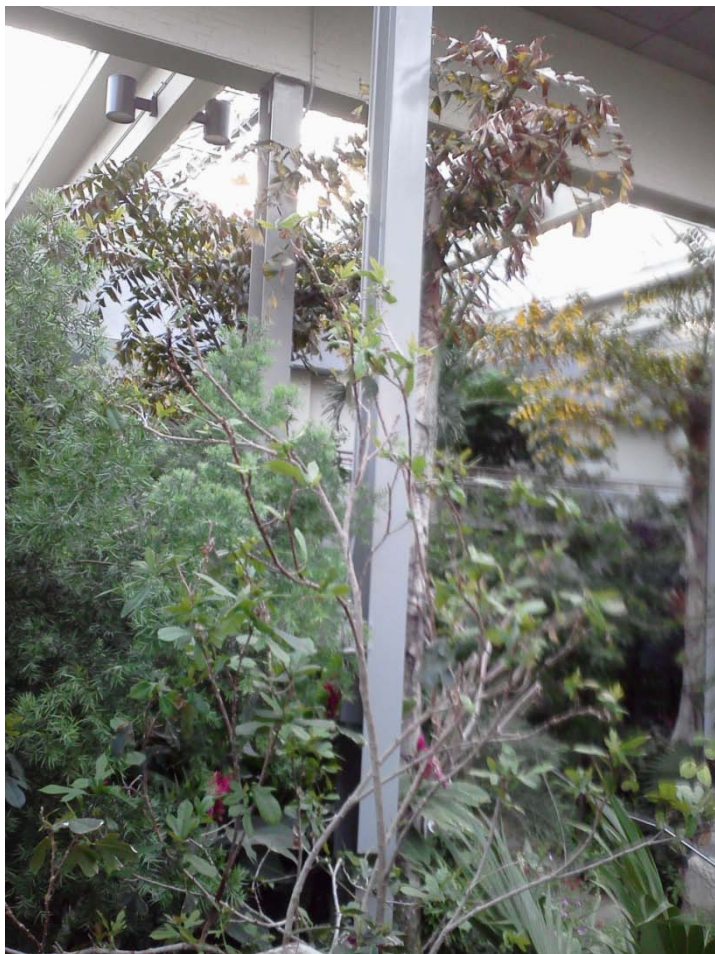
- Native to Mexico and Central America, and has spread to Caribbean and Florida
- Over 55 host plants, including: papaya, hibiscus, avocado, citrus, cotton, and tomato
- Identified in Corpus Christi area in 2007. Considered eradicated
- New infestation in tropical plant conservatory
- Biocontrol release of three parasitoids reared in Puerto Rico

# Papaya mealybug biocontrol release - BEFORE





# Papaya mealybug biocontrol release- AFTER



Parasitoid  
establishment



New growth  
on affected  
plants

## Increased Outreach in 2013

### Targeted Outreach Efforts:

- Media event in south Texas, highlighting Hungrypest.com campaign
- Updated SaveOurCitrus website and internet ad initiative
- CBP newspaper and radio PSAs along Mexican border

### Stakeholder engagement:

- Continued relationship with Invaders of Texas citizen scientist program
- Increasing reports from citizens on possible pests sightings
- SaveOurCitrus Report-It referrals

## Pest Detection for 2014

### PPQ Surveys for:

- Exotic woodborers and bark beetles
- Khapra beetle

### Cooperator Surveys:

- Cactus moth, gypsy moth, karnal bunt, and imported fire ant
- CAPS Surveys could include pests and diseases associated with oaks, rice, and field crops in the LRGV
- Citrus pests and diseases
- Other surveys funded by Farm Bill





USDA – APHIS – PPQ

Protecting American Agriculture



Thank You!

