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consumer radio briefs

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Don't Spread Insects, Disease

(1:15)

Minnesota Extension Entomologist Dave Noetzel

(nate-sell) says when you travel this summer, take care not to spread insects and diseases that destroy plants.

Plant pests travel on cars, trailers, camping equipment and on souvenirs such as rocks, plants and pieces of wood.

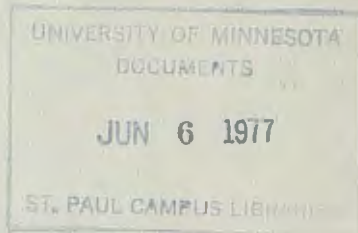
There's also the possibility of spreading plant pests when you trade plants and bulbs with friends.

You may not notice destructive grubs in the soil, nematodes on plant roots, or insect eggs on the undersides of leaves, but just one destructive pest is enough to start a pest outbreak that can cause millions of dollars damage to crops, lawns, flowers and trees.

To avoid spreading such destruction, the United States Department of Agriculture suggests these precautions. When traveling don't dig up souvenir plants from a strange wood or the roadside. First find out if that area is under quarantine regulations that require precautions to be taken against spreading pests.

Before leaving a campsite, carefully inspect your car, camper, trailer and camping equipment for caterpillars, egg masses, and cocoons. Remove and crush any you find.

When trading plants or bulbs with friends from other sections of the country, or sending them gift plants, be sure to comply with plant quarantine regulations. Contact the Bureau of Plant Industry, 670 State Office Building, St. Paul 55155.



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