# *Threat to Native Trees and Florida's Avocados*

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# Redbay ambrosia beetle (RAB)
## (*Xyleborus glabratus*)

- Very small (~2 mm in length), brown-black colored, cylinder shaped

- Female beetles - most common and can fly; males – not common and cannot fly

- The RAB carries spores of the laurel wilt pathogen (LW: fungus) in special mouth pouches called mycangia

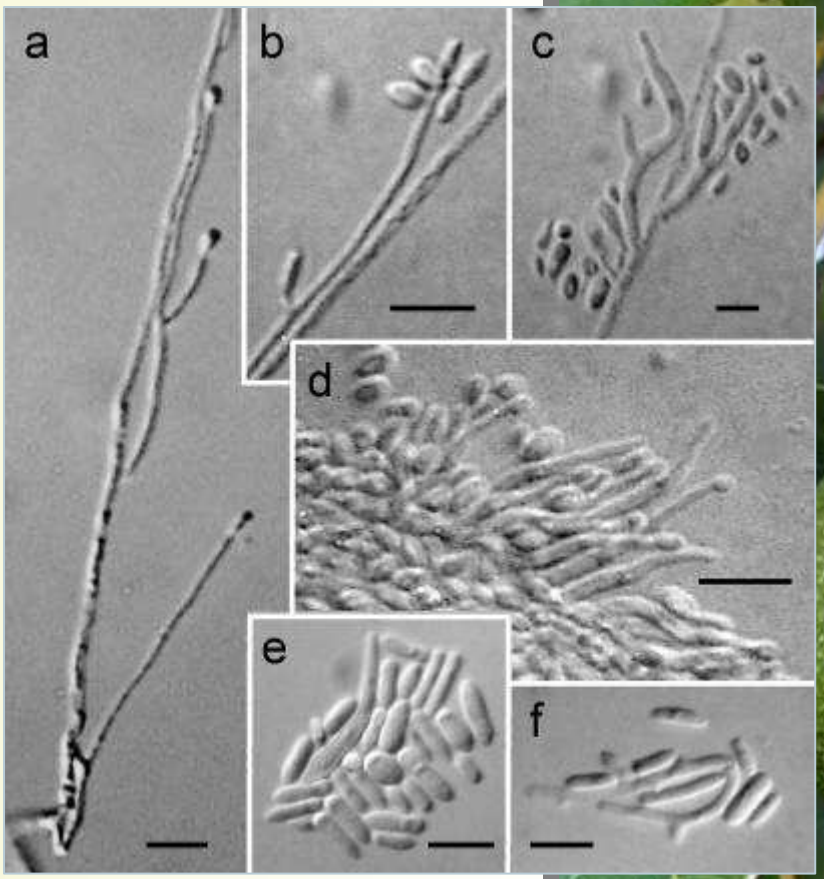
- Beetles bore into the wood just below the bark and form galleries in the sapwood

# Laurel Wilt Pathogen (LW)

## *(Raffaelea lauricola) . . .*

**An exotic fungus**

**Mouth pouches on the beetle (mycangia) with LW spores**

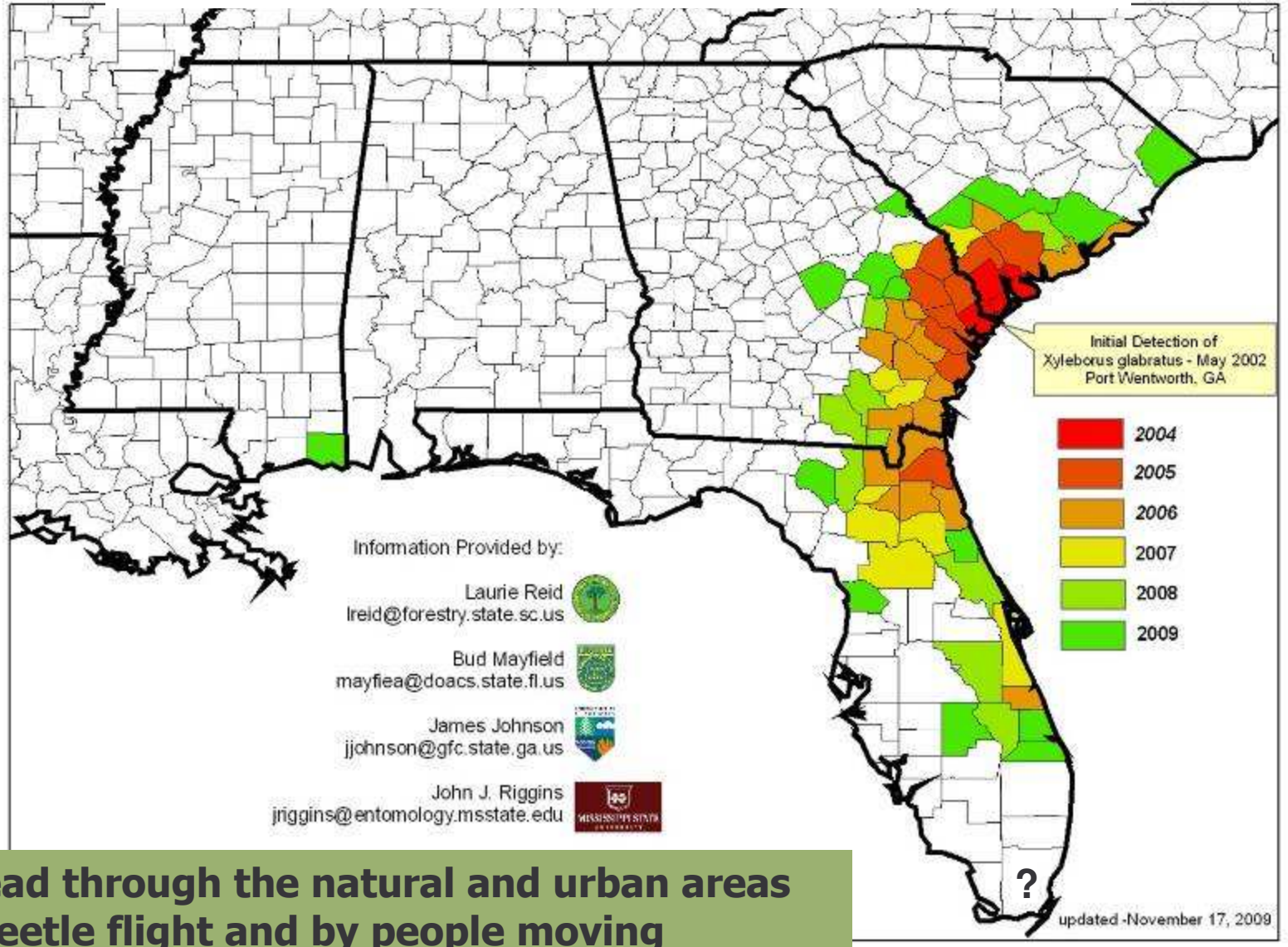



**The laurel wilt pathogen**

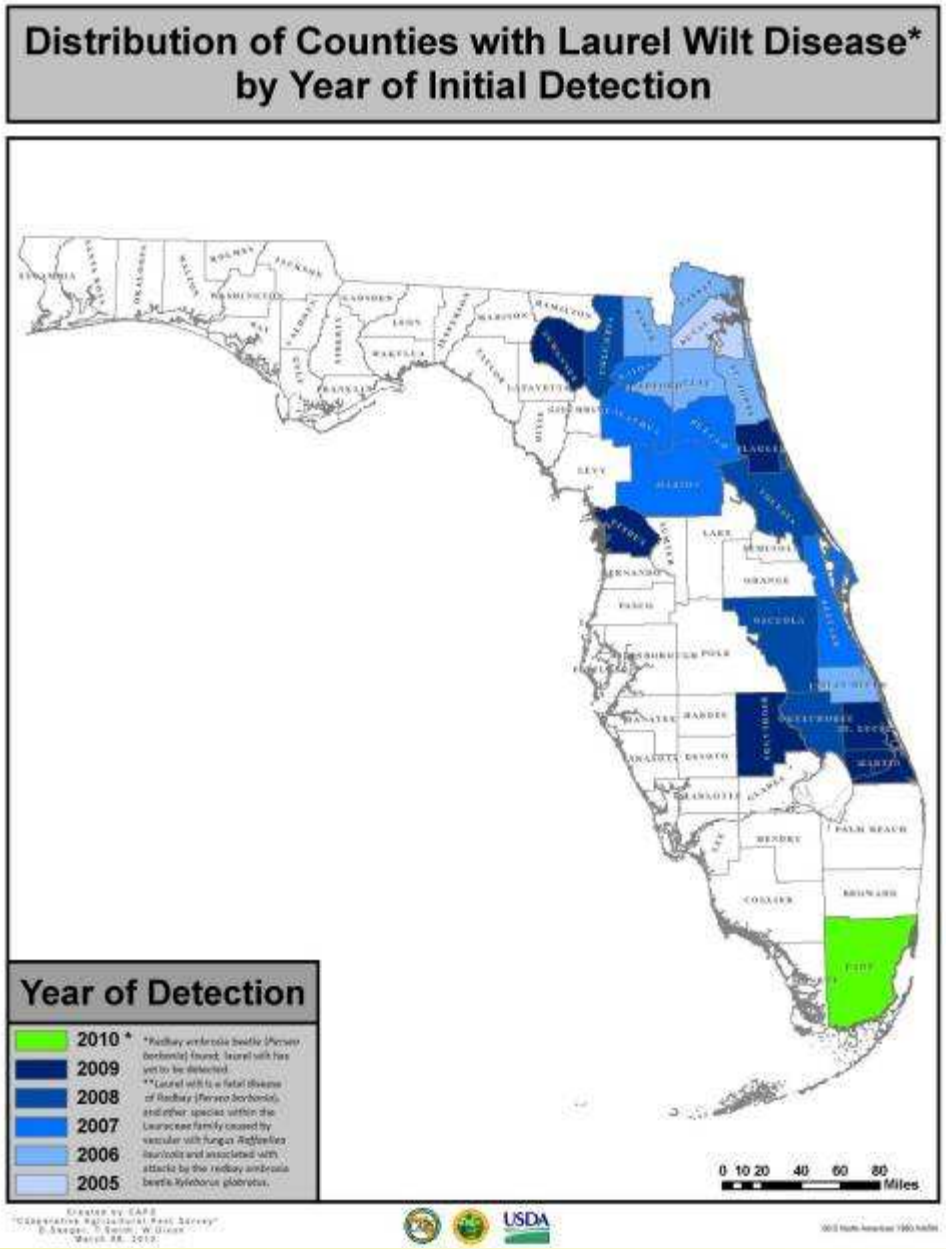
- **The adult beetles and their larvae feed on the fungus**

**Mature avocado trees positive for laurel wilt**

# Distribution of Counties with Laurel Wilt Disease by Year of Initial Detection




**Spread through the natural and urban areas by beetle flight and by people moving contaminated wood products.**



# The Florida situation

# Why is this important?

- State largest industry ($ 30M /year) after citrus
- 7,500 acres
- 250,000 backyard avocado trees
- > 600,000 trees

# Value ($)

$ 30 millions (wholesale)

$300 millions (replacement)

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FE825

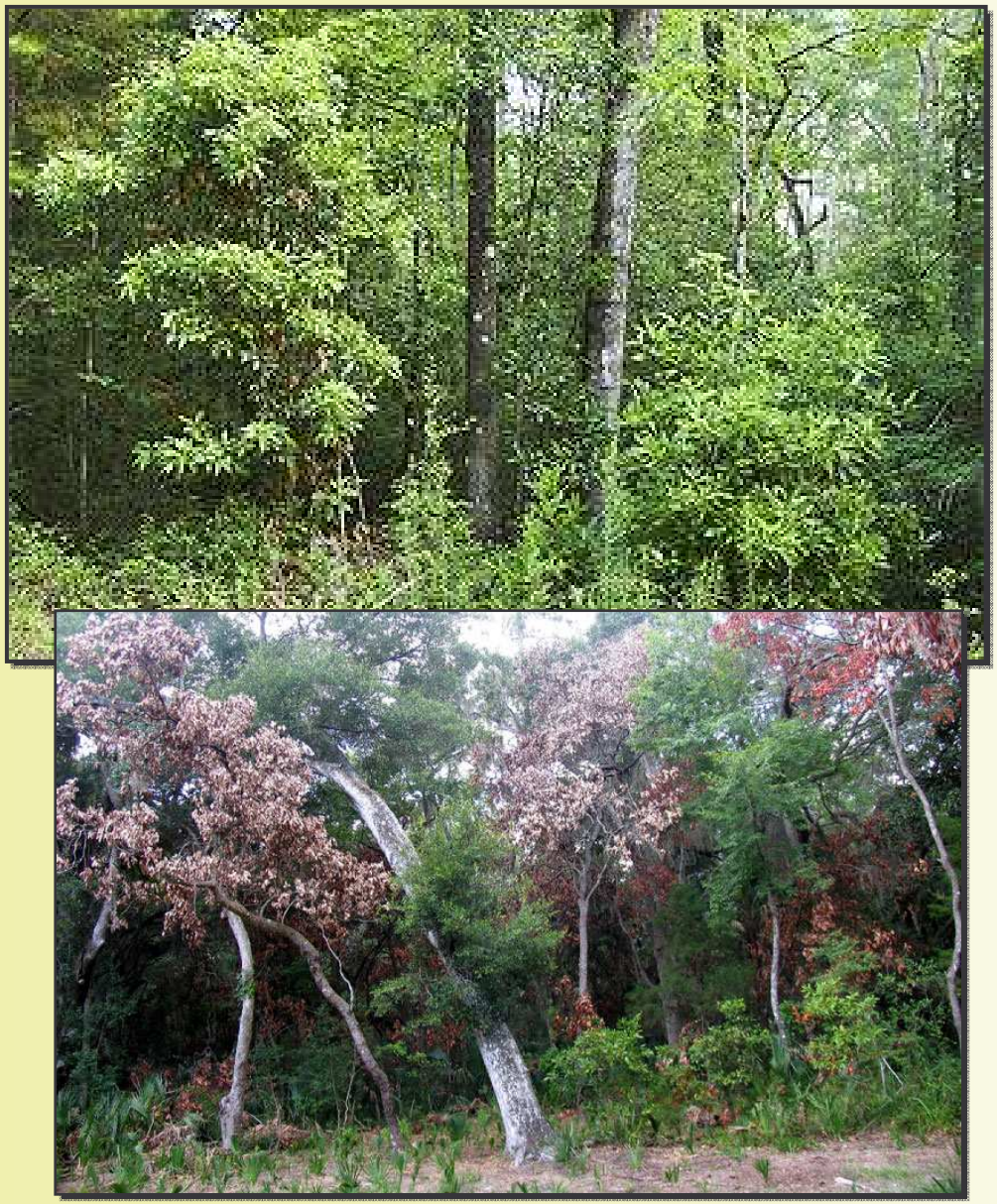
# The damage done to avocado trees

# Sawdust and holes from ambrosia beetle boring

# Dark staining of sapwood and beetle holes

# The damage done in environmental areas

# Healthy redbay tree sequence



# Infestation of redbay trees sequence

Leaf and stem dieback

# Loss of redbay trees in native areas

# Key Points!!

## What Can the Public Do to Help?

- **Become familiar with the signs of laurel wilt disease and redbay ambrosia beetle and be on the lookout for evidence of the pest/disease on your trees**
  - **Contact the DPI Helpline at 888-397-1517 or**
  - **UF-IFAS county extension offices if you think you have the pest/disease at 305-248.3311**
- **Use local firewood only – Do not transport firewood or other plant products from other counties and states**
- **Purchase host plants from registered nurseries only**
- **View the latest public service announcement, Save the Guac at http://savetheguac.com/**

# Acknowledge

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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and
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Tropical Research and Education Center

Laurel Wilt Working Group
Outreach Subgroup

# Thank You!

FDACS/DPI Helpline
888-397-1517

www.fl-dpi.com

http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/index.html

http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/

http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu

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