

It's a Trap!!! - Safeguarding Natural Resources with Sentinel Plantings in Port Cities

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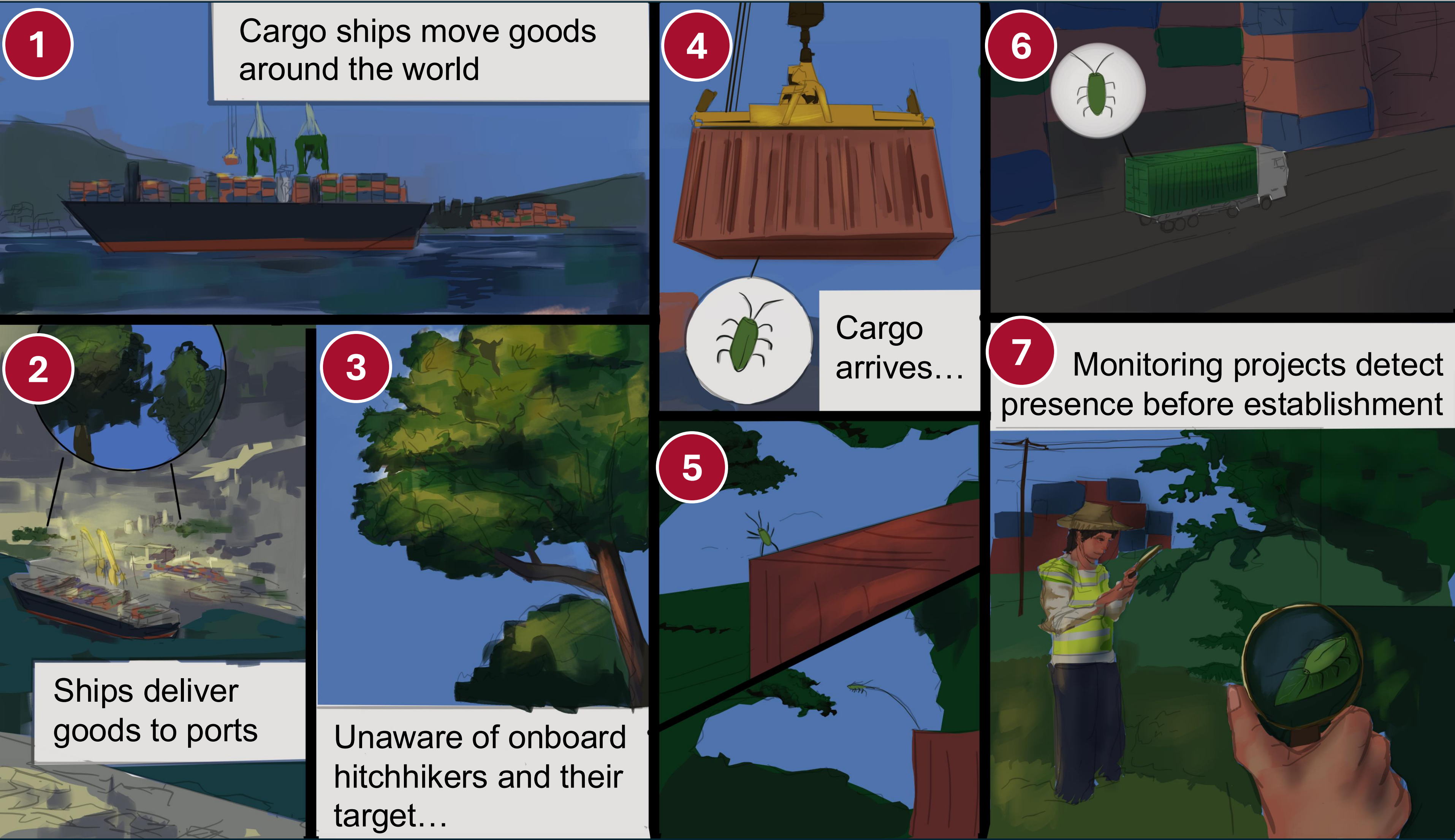


Urban Forest Health Lab
treehealth.wsu.edu

Illustration Credit: Liam Corre-Rochel

What's in those shipping containers?

- Global shipping is projected to increase by 2-12-fold within the next 25 years
- The risk of novel plant pest introductions is linked to global shipping
- Ports of entry can act as “**traps**” for these introductions allowing faster detection before introduced species can establish themselves.

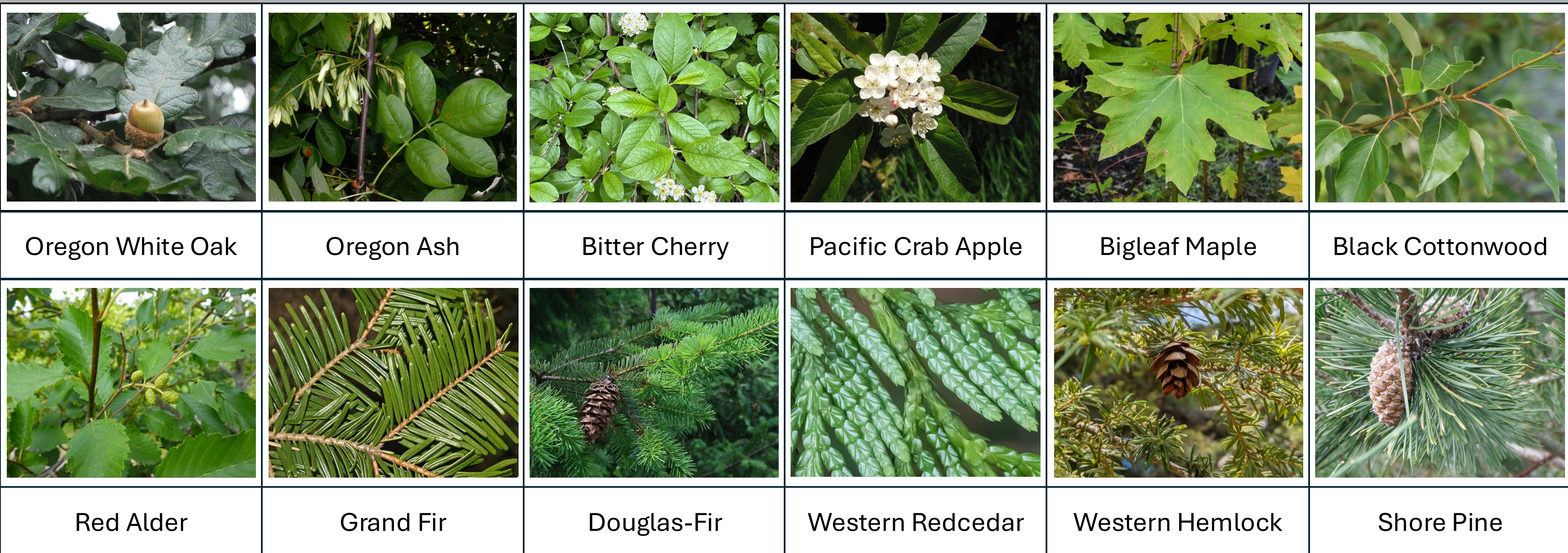


- In 2025 the Northwest Seaport Alliance handled 3.2 million shipping containers.
- The Port of Tacoma handles most of those shipping containers making for a strong monitoring site.

Sentinel Tree Planting - Setting the Trap



Species Planted



Plant species native to the northwest were planted with inclusion of *Malus* and *Prunus* genera as early warning for Washington tree fruit industries.

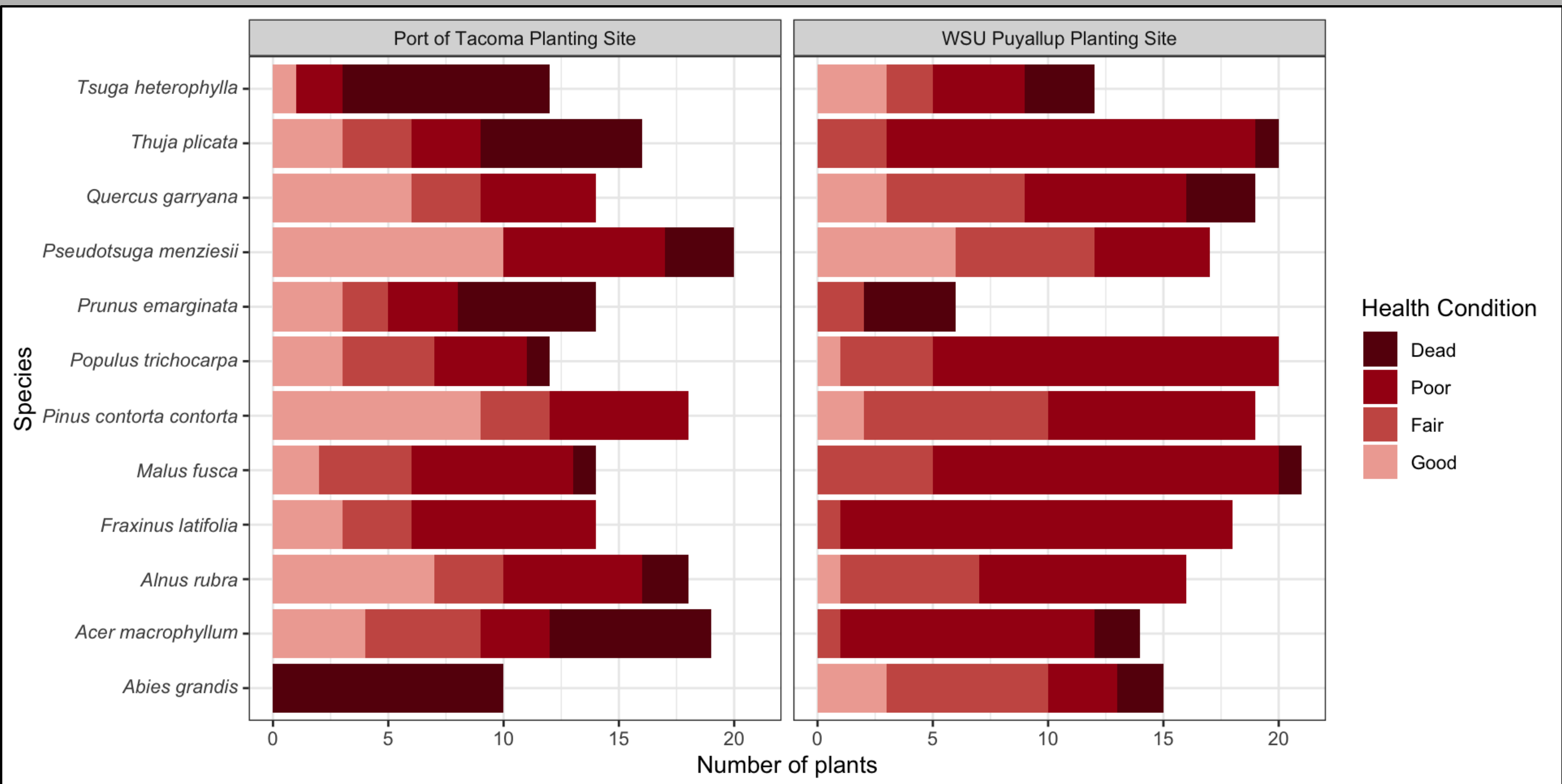
Port of Tacoma Sentinel Planting Site - It's a Trap!!!



Examples of Plant Pest Detections at the Port of Tacoma Planting Site



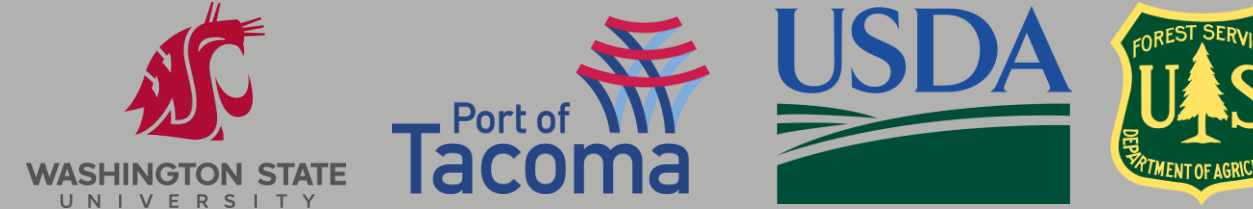
2026 Sentinel Tree Health Conditions



Tree health conditions were generally worse at the Port of Tacoma Planting Site. Grand fir (*A. grandis*) had the most trees recorded 'dead' while Douglas-fir (*P. menziesii*) had the most trees recorded 'good'.

Acknowledgments

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