

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2006-48
September 25, 2006

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Maryland

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On August 22, 2006, two larvae recovered from ash trees located in the Clinton/Brandywine area of southern Prince George's County, Maryland, and submitted to USDA-APHIS were confirmed as EAB (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire). The larvae were discovered during ongoing survey and eradication activities begun after the detection of the insect in Maryland in 2003, when a Michigan nurseryman shipped infested trees into a Prince George's County nursery.

Since 2003, efforts to eradicate the insect included the collection and destruction of all trees sent to Maryland from the Michigan nurseryman, destruction of all ash trees within a ½-mile radius of the introduction point, and three years of surveillance, which previously produced no emerald ash borer detections.

On August 22, 2006, the Maryland Department of Agriculture issued a Quarantine Order (#06-01) that prohibits anyone from moving prohibited articles, including ash trees or any hardwood firewood, out of Prince Georges's County until further notice. Additionally, the area of the county south of I-495 and Pennsylvania Avenue is considered to be the Infested Area and movement of regulated articles from infested to un-infested areas of the county is also prohibited.

Over the next several months, USDA-APHIS and Maryland officials will thoroughly investigate the area for the presence of the pest using several survey methods, including destructive sampling. All infested trees will be removed. Based on the results of surveys, the program will determine whether additional trees will be removed to prevent further pest spread.

In addition to survey, regulatory, and control activities, the program is planning an aggressive outreach and education campaign to enlist the support and cooperation of homeowners and businesses. EAB can be spread easily through the movement of firewood and ash nursery stock. Public awareness and assistance will be critical in encouraging residents to report possible beetle damage in their area, as well as in preventing the spread of this insect through the movement of regulated articles.

USDA-APHIS is preparing an interim rule for publication in the Federal Register to implement a quarantine of Prince George's County to prevent the movement of host materials (nursery stock, firewood, etc.) out of the affected area.

/s/ **Paul R. Eggert** for

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine