

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2007-52  
October 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Interception of Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On September 27, 2007, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of single emerald ash borer (EAB) larva in Moran, Mackinac County, on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This larva was initially collected from a detection tree on September 16, 2007. After confirming this detection, the affected detector tree was removed and its bark was stripped, revealing a total of 25 additional EAB larvae upon inspection.

The Moran infestation site is approximately 5 miles east of a lake with summer cottages and recreational homes. The site is in close proximity to a wilderness area and a research area that are both part of the Hiawatha National Forest.

In order to provide an indication of density and distribution of EAB in the area, a delimiting survey was initiated on October 22, 2007, by the Michigan Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Pesticide and Plant Pest Management staff. This will include destructive sampling of ash trees in the area, including any additional detection trees in the vicinity of the find. Based on the results of the surveys, which are anticipated to be completed by mid-November, MDA and APHIS officials will determine whether additional trees will have to be removed to prevent further pest spread.

In addition to survey and regulatory activities, the MDA and APHIS officials are 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.

APHIS and MDA will quarantine the affected county to prevent additional pest spread. APHIS is currently preparing an interim rule for publication in the *Federal Register* to implement a quarantine of Mackinac County to prevent the movement of host materials (nursery stock, firewood, etc.) out of the area.

For additional details on the Federal response to the detection of EAB in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and other affected States, you may contact Deborah McPartlan, Staff Officer, at (301) 734-5356.

/s/ **John H. Payne** for  
Richard L. Dunkle  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine