

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-44
August 8, 2008

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Wayne County, Missouri

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the identification of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), in Wayne County, Missouri, on July 25, 2008. This is the first detection of EAB in the State of Missouri.

On July 23, 2008, an employee with APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine program collected seven suspected EAB specimens from a purple prism trap placed in the Greenville Campground of the Lake Wappapello Army Corps of Engineers Recreational Area in Wayne County, Missouri. The trap was placed at this location as part of the EAB National Survey, which targets high risk-sites for EAB trapping in 48 States. Wayne County, Missouri, is located within the southeast corner of Missouri, in close proximity to the Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas borders.

In response to this detection, APHIS is working closely with the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) to carryout delimiting surveys around the initial detection site. APHIS is also coordinating with representatives of the Missouri State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Missouri. Further, it is necessary for APHIS to quarantine this infested area in order to prevent further spread of EAB. Accordingly, effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB-regulated articles from Wayne County must be performed in accordance with the attached Federal Order. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Wayne County is regulated, including firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species. The Federal allows Missouri 30 days from August 8, 2008, to place an equivalent parallel quarantine in place for EAB; otherwise, it will be necessary to quarantine the entire State as an EAB-quarantined area.

EAB is currently present in some parts of the United States and is subject to official control to prevent further spread. Recently, an EAB infestation was newly detected in Fairfax County in northern Virginia. The entire county is now a Federal quarantine area for EAB; however, the State of Virginia has expanded its intrastate phytosanitary regulations to include adjacent counties as a precautionary measure. APHIS has expanded the Federal EAB quarantine area in Virginia to parallel the State's quarantine. Currently, the entire States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are quarantine areas for EAB, together with portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and Prince George's County in Maryland. Five counties in western Pennsylvania are also quarantined EAB areas.

EAB is an invasive wood boring pest that is native to China and East Asia. It probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship goods in commerce. The first U.S. detection of EAB occurred in southeastern Michigan. Since then, EAB has been

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responsible for the death and decline of over 30 million ash trees in the United States. The interstate movement of firewood from quarantined areas is an especially high-risk pathway for spreading EAB, and APHIS is working with State cooperators and foresters to raise awareness about this threat among the public.

For more information about the EAB program and Federal EAB regulations, you may contact Paul Chaloux, Acting EAB National Program Manager, at Area Code (301) 734-0917.

/s/ Rebecca A. BECH

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:
Federal Order