

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-63
September 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Charles County, Maryland, and Expansion of the Quarantine Area

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the identification of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), in Charles County, Maryland, on August 25, 2008. This EAB detection is near the county line between Charles County and Prince George's County. A portion of Prince George's County was established as quarantine area for EAB in 2004, and the entire county has been a quarantine area since 2006. This detection was made by a Maryland Department of Agriculture employee who was performing an ash inventory and visual survey for EAB near the perimeter of the known infested area in Prince George's County. The visual survey was being conducted as follow up to an outlying EAB prism trap find within the existing quarantine area.

In response to this detection, APHIS is working closely with the State of Maryland to carry out delimiting surveys around the initial detection site. The attached Federal Order establishes a quarantine area in order to prevent the further spread of EAB. Effective immediately, all interstate movement of EAB regulated articles from Charles County must be done in accordance with the attached Federal Order. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Charles County is regulated, including firewood of all hardwoods species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species. Due to a parallel quarantine area established by Maryland, only those counties with EAB will be established as quarantine area and placed under phytosanitary controls.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States. Currently, Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer Counties in western Pennsylvania are quarantined for EAB, together with the entire States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, Prince George's County in Maryland and Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon and Prince Williams Counties, along with the independent Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park in Virginia, Wayne County in Missouri, and Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Washington Counties in Wisconsin and Fayette County in West Virginia are also under quarantine for EAB. EAB is an invasive wood boring beetle that is native to China and eastern Asia. EAB probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship consumer and other goods. It was first detected in the United States in southeastern Michigan. Since then, EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of more than 25 million ash trees in the United States. The interstate movement of firewood from quarantine 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/ Paul R. Eggert /for

Rebecca A. Bech
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Attachment:
Federal Order