

Eastern Plant Board
April 7, 2005
Egg Harbor, New Jersey

Resolution 3: Wood Boring Pests

Wood Boring Pests: Asian longhorned beetle, Emerald ash borer

Over the past several years, a wide range of urban and forest trees in the United States has been attacked by exotic insect pests. Infestations of these insects have caused widespread damage resulting in a significant expenditure of resources to eradicate and/or contain. The Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, (ALB) was first discovered in the Eastern region in 1996 in New York City. In 2002 it was confirmed in Jersey City. A second New Jersey infestation was detected in New Jersey in 2004. Quarantines were established, and eradication programs are underway. As maple is a host tree for this pest, the maple sugar industries in New York and New England are also at risk because of this pest. In addition to the threat posed to the North American hardwood forest resource.

In 2002, the emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, EAB was identified in North America. Since its introduction, this beetle has killed millions of ash trees in the United States and Canada. Ash trees are one of the most utilized landscaping trees in the U.S. and common in many forests throughout the United States. To date, EAB generally infests several counties in Michigan and Ohio, two counties in Indiana, and one county in southern Ontario. Additionally, outlying infestations have been found in several locations in these states, as well as limited locations in Maryland and Virginia.

Since their introduction, significant progress has been made in developing and implementing the infrastructure to manage ALB and EAB. Survey and regulatory staff have been hired; data and methods management have been implemented. Eradication efforts are ongoing in New York and New Jersey for ALB, and significant survey efforts are being conducted in Connecticut, Vermont, Pennsylvania and Delaware. In Maryland, the EAB eradication efforts will continue for the mandated 3 fiscal years to ensure eradication. Current funding for the EAB and ALB program for 2005 is uncertain. The federal appropriation for EAB and ALB management was less than required and the Office of Management and Budget has not released the full amount requested by the Secretary of Agriculture. These actions have left these emergency programs underfunded. This will result in staff reduction, reduced critical survey activities, and an inability to deal with removal of outlying infestations that threaten to increase in size and spread to uninfested areas of the United States.

Be it resolved, that the Eastern Plant Board, at its 80th annual meeting in Egg Harbor, New Jersey from April 4-7, 2005, requests that the Office of Management and Budget provide full funding as identified by USDA-APHIS-PPQ for EAB and ALB management and eradication. Be it further resolved that this funding be made available immediately in order to facilitate the implementation of Science Panel and other recommendations.

Distribution:

Joshua B. Bolton, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Michael Johannes, Secretary, USDA

Bill Hawks, Under Secretary, USDA

Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA, APHIS

Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Paul Eggert, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Directors/Commissioners/Secretaries, EPB States' Departments of Agriculture

Rick Kirchoff, CEO, NASDA

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Dr. Robert Mangold, Director, USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection

Pat McElroy, President, National Association of State Foresters

Bill Dickerson, President, National Plant Board

Regional Plant Board Presidents

Letter from Eastern Plant Board to:

Dr. Richard, Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Mr. Paul Eggert, Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

April 6, 2005

RE: Funding Decisions for Biological Control Programs

Biological control programs have been conducted in the United States for more than 100 years. These programs require a considerable amount of research and field work, and often require years to implement. However, for a number of difficult pests, these programs provide a measure of long term control not possible with other pest control methods. Many of the pests that are suitable candidates for biological control span across a number of states and crops.

Members of the Eastern Plant Board are on the front line of pest control considerations for new and emerging pests. At the same time, they have strong connections to land grant and other universities, and thus are well connected to ongoing programs in biological control. We believe that USDA-APHIS-PPQ could benefit from the perspective represented by the Plant Board when making decisions regarding funding for biological control programs.

Therefore, we are requesting that USDA-APHIS-PPQ consider adding a member of the Eastern Plant Board to the committee making funding decisions as to which biological control programs to support. This action would have the added benefit of strengthening bonds and communication between USDA and state departments of agriculture.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Eastern Plant Board