

SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD

April 10-13, 2005

St. Augustine, Florida

RESOLUTION # 5

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, was identified in North America in June 2002. Since its introduction, this exotic pest has killed millions of ash trees in the United States and Canada and threatens the \$280 billion ash resources in North America. Since its introduction into this country, this insect and its associated quarantines have cost the nursery and forest products industries and native urban forests millions of dollars, created public safety and financial distress to cities in the infested areas and overloaded the safeguarding resources of state and federal agencies that attempt to manage this pest. To date, this pest generally infests twenty (20) counties in southeast Michigan, four (4) counties in Ohio, two (2) counties in Indiana, and Essex County in southern Ontario, Canada. Additionally, outlying infestations have been found in several locations in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, as well as regulatory incidences in Maryland and Virginia.

Significant progress has been made in developing and implementing the infrastructure to manage this pest since 2002. A national strategy has been developed by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force and endorsed by the National EAB Science Panel in December 2004. Survey and regulatory staff have been hired, data and methods management have been implemented, and eradication efforts are ongoing in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. However, this is the beginning of a multiyear eradication process with the majority of the work still to be accomplished.

In order to carry out the recommendations of the EAB Science Panel and effectively manage this pest, it is imperative that full, reliable and continuous funding be available to partner agencies involved in the process. Currently, funding for this program for 2005 is uncertain at best. The federal appropriation for EAB management was less than anticipated and the Office of Management and Budget has granted only 50% of the already reduced request. Together, these actions have left the program with less than 40% of the funding needed to carry out an effective program. This will result in staff reductions; reduced critical survey activities and result in the inability to deal with removal of outliers that threaten to increase in size and spread to uninfested areas of the United States.

Be it resolved, That the Southern Plant Board, at its annual meeting held in St. Augustine, Florida on April 13, 2005, requests that the Office of Management and Budget provide full funding of 18 million dollars as identified by USDA-APHIS-PPQ for emerald ash borer management and eradication of outlying infestations.

Be it further resolved that this funding be made available immediately in order to facilitate the implementation of recent Science Panel recommendations relative to survey and eradication activities in 2005.

Motion: Bill Dickerson

Seconded by: Frank Fulgham

Distribution:

Joshua B. Bolten, 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

Rick Kirchhoff, CEO, NASDA

Gus Douglass, Chair, NASDA Animal and Plant Industries Committee

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

President, National Association of State Foresters

Bill Dickerson, President, National Plant Board

Regional Plant Board Presidents