

**Southern Plant Board
April 4-7, 2004
Williamsburg, Virginia**

Resolution # 6

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 resource in North America. Since its introduction into this country, this insect and its associated quarantines have cost the nursery and forest products industries 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 thirteen (13) counties in SE Michigan and Essex County in Southern Ontario, Canada. Additionally, outlying infestations have been found in several locations in Michigan as well as limited locations in Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia.

Since June 2002, significant progress has been made in developing and implementing the infrastructure to eradicate this pest. A strategy has been developed by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force and endorsed by the National EAB Science Panel. Survey and regulatory staff have been recruited, data and methods management have been developed, and disposal and eradication efforts have begun in Michigan. Additionally, eradication plans have been formulated and implemented in Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia. However, we have only begun this multiyear eradication process and the majority of work to eliminate this pest still lies before us.

In order for this eradication effort to be successful, it is imperative that full, timely and continuous funding be made available in this program. Currently there are no federally appropriated funds available for this eradication effort and therefore the need for continued emergency resources through the Commodity Credit Corporation is critical in order to continue this battle. Additionally, as the Office of Management and Budget considers these requests for funds, it is critical that grants are made available for at least twelve (12) months in order for implementing agencies to hire personnel and establish timely contracts.

RESOLVED: That the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia on April 7, 2004 recommends that Office of Management and Budget provide full and timely funding of at least 43 million dollars for the 2005 annual appropriation for emerald ash borer eradication; and that this funding be provided for at least twelve (12) months in order to facilitate hiring personnel and contracting activities.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That in future fiscal years, as appropriated funds become available, Commodity Credit Corporation funds be made available to supplement these appropriated funds as needed to carry out an effective eradication strategy.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Southern Plant Board requests NASDA support of emerald ash borer eradication efforts and funding.

Motion to Adopt: Sancho M. Dickinson

Seconded by: Bill Dickerson

Distribution:

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

Ann Veneman, Secretary, USDA

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

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

Rick Kirchoff, CEO, NASDA

Gus Douglass, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA

Bill Dickerson, National Plant Board President & Regional Plant Board Presidents