

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-62
September 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Houghton County, Michigan, 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 Houghton County, Michigan, on August 5, 2008. Houghton County is in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Michigan's entire Lower Peninsula and Mackinaw County in the Upper Peninsula are already under quarantine for EAB. The detection in Houghton County was made when the County Extension Director was inspecting declining ash trees in Laurium, Michigan, in response to a homeowner's call. The Michigan Department of Agriculture has regulated Houghton as well as Keweenaw County due to its proximity and known movement of EAB-host material. APHIS is establishing a parallel quarantine area for EAB in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties, Michigan.

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