

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION  
DA-2006-52  
December 1, 2006

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

This is to notify that APHIS has expanded the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine to include, in their entirety, the States of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio effective December 1, 2006. This action is necessary to prevent the spread of EAB to non-infested areas of the United States.

APHIS is expanding the quarantine in response to the destructive nature of this invasive pest and the significant threat it poses to ash trees in our nation's forests and residential landscapes. Since its first detection in June 2002, EAB has spread more than 28,000 square miles over areas of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, and Virginia. EAB is responsible for the death and decline of more than 25 million ash trees in the United States.

The rapid spread of EAB infestation is attributed to the artificial movement of the pest in ash tree products; firewood transportation poses the highest risk in spreading EAB. The expanded quarantine will help to mitigate the spread of this pest while the science community continues to work to develop solutions to combat EAB, including improved detection and control strategies. The ultimate goal is to eradicate this pest from North America.

Under the Federal domestic Quarantine Order, a copy of which is attached, interstate movement of wood and wood products that host EAB are regulated. This includes firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, lumber, green waste, compost, and chips of ash species. Three years of EAB survey data support the need to implement strict regulations for the movement of these host materials. Survey methods are not 100 percent effective for early detection of the pest, and given this uncertainty, the possibility of spreading EAB in unprocessed host material presents a serious risk that requires immediate action.

In order to coordinate effective communication, APHIS sponsored several conference calls in November 2006 to ensure that representatives of the affected and interested States, as well as the Forest Service, received information on the EAB quarantine change. APHIS collaborated with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to establish a communication strategy to further facilitate outreach to impacted State Agriculture Commissioners and affected stakeholders, and APHIS will work closely with States to educate the public on the dangers of moving potentially infested firewood products.

If you wish more details on the Federal regulatory program, you may contact Staff Officer Deborah McPartlan at (301) 734-5356. For information on the EAB survey program, please contact your State Plant Health Director.

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Plant Protection and Quarantine