Missouri Emerald Ash Borer Program

EMERALD ASH BORER FAQs

industries

EAB regulations help limit the spread of this invasive insect. Know the regulations and quarantines in place in Missouri and other surrounding states.

1 What is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

EAB is an exotic, invasive, wood-boring insect that infests and kills native North American ash trees, both in forests and landscape plantings.

2 Where did the EAB come from?

The native range of EAB is eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea.

3 When was the Emerald Ash Borer first discovered in North America?

EAB was first identified in southeast Michigan in 2002. It likely arrived several years earlier.

4 How did it get to North America?

It most likely traveled in ash wood used for stabilizing cargo in ships or for packing consumer products.

5 What does the Emerald Ash Borer look like?

The adult beetle is dark metallic green, bullet-shaped and about 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide. The body is narrow and elongated, and the head is flat with black eyes. The EAB larva is white and flat, has distinctive bell shaped segments and can grow up to 1.2 inches long. There are many other green insects that look similar to the adult EAB. For examples, please refer to photos at eab.missouri.edu.

6 Where is EAB now?

As of April 2010, EAB had been found in 14 states, including Missouri, and in two Canadian Provinces.

7 Where and when was Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) found in Missouri?

The only known EAB infestation was discovered July 2008 in the campground at the Wappapello Lake U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Greenville Recreational Area in Wayne County, Missouri.

Wayne County, Missouri

8 What is being done about EAB at the Greenville Recreational Area?

The USACE has removed ash trees from a 1,400-acre area surrounding the campground. Contract loggers cut down ash trees in the area, gather logs into piles and burn them on the spot to kill any insect in the wood. Also, purple triangular traps have been placed in and around the campground in a "detection and delimit" campaign.

9 Has EAB been found anywhere else in Missouri?

No, as of April 2010 EAB has not been found anywhere else in Missouri.

10 What is Missouri doing to monitor the EAB situation in the state?

Annual surveys to detect the arrival of EAB are conducted by the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at selected state parks, public and commercial campgrounds, nurseries and high-risk urban sites. These efforts include visual surveys as well as the use of purple prism shaped traps and detection trees.

11 How does EAB harm ash trees?

The problem with EAB is its larvae. Adult female lay their eggs on the bark of ash trees. When the eggs hatch, the larvae burrow under the bark and eat the living tissue they find there. As they do, they cut off the life-giving channels that carry nutrients—water and sugars—to the tree. After 2-4 years, enough of the channels are cut off so the tree starves to death.

12 Which trees are susceptible?

All ash species found in Missouri—green, white, pumpkin and blue ashes—as well as horticultural cultivars (e.g. Autumn Purple white ash and Marshall Seedless green ash) have been killed by EAB. It infests trees ranging in size from saplings to fully mature trees in forests. While most native borers kill only severely weakened trees, the emerald ash borer kills healthy trees as well, making it especially devastating.

To report a possible EAB infestation: 1-866-716-9974

www.eab.missouri.edu

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13 How important are ash trees to Missouri?

Ash trees account for 3 percent of the native forest. The fast-growing shade trees are popular for landscaping, though, and about 14 percent of trees lining streets in urban settings are ash. In some neighborhoods and parks the figure reaches as high as 30 or 40 percent.

14 How does EAB spread?

Although the EAB can fly short distances on its own, much of its spread is due to humans transporting it as larvae burrowed under the bark of firewood or landscape trees.

15 What is being done to stop EAB from spreading?

There is a national effort to limit the spread and impact of EAB. Infested areas are quarantined to prevent movement of EAB on firewood and other ash products that can carry it. Many states are educating the public on the dangers of moving firewood; the primary way EAB and many other invasive pests and diseases of trees are spreading. Ongoing research and development of safe and effective pesticides, traps and other management strategies is taking place at state and national levels.

16 What is being done in Missouri?

State, federal, local agencies and groups are working together to educate the public and slow the spread of infestations. Alerting the public to the risk of moving firewood and spreading EAB is key to prevention. This is a slow moving insect, except when people allow it to hitchhike on firewood.

17 Are there any areas in Missouri under quarantine?

Yes. Wayne County is under a federal quarantine to prevent the accidental spread of the beetle. The quarantine prohibits the interstate (between states) movement of potentially-contaminated wood products; ash trees, nursery stock, limbs and branches, green lumber, waste, compost and chips of ash species and all types of firewood, from Wayne County. Missouri has a parallel quarantine in place for intrastate (within state) movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Wayne County or face an interstate quarantine for the entire state.

18 Are there any other states under quarantine?

Yes, the entire states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and the lower peninsula of Michigan are under federal quarantine. Nursery stock, other ash materials and all hardwood firewood cannot be moved out of those states without a federal compliance agreement. Furthermore, parts of Minnesota, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Virginia, Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania are under state and federal quarantine. In the event that you are still buying and planting ash nursery stock, be sure you know the origin of those trees before purchasing.

19 What regulations are in place for the following industries concerning ash trees in Wayne County?

Nurseries: *ash nursery stock is prohibited from being distributed outside of the EAB quarantine area.*

Mills and loggers: *ash logs cannot be moved out of the quarantine area during the adult flight period (roughly April 1 through September 30) unless fumigated or debarked. From October 1 through March 31, ash logs may be allowed to be moved to an approved mill outside of the quarantine area for processing by March 31. Bark and wood waste must be processed by March 31. These processes must be approved by state or federal agriculture agencies.*

Green lumber manufacturers: *ash lumber will need to be processed in an approved manner, such as complete removal of bark (plus _ inch of wood), kiln drying by approved standards, or fumigation prior to distribution out of the quarantine area. All processes will need approval by state or federal agencies.*

Pallet producers: *ash lumber (generated from ash from the quarantine area) used to make pallets will need to be processed in a manner approved by state or federal agencies.*

For all regulatory inquiries, please contact:

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