

# FACTSHEET

Emerald Ash Borer

# IOWA

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was first identified in the US in 2002, and is responsible for the death and decline of more than 25 million ash trees. EAB has also impacted numerous communities in the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec Canada.

Human movement of EAB is the number one way EAB infests new areas. Unknowingly, people's behaviors associated with everyday living and commerce has greatly contributed to the spread of the emerald ash borer.

## Questions and Answers:

### Q. What is EAB and why is it a pest?

A. The emerald ash borer is a very small and very destructive wood-boring beetle. Metallic green in color, its slender body measures ½ inch in length and 1/8 inch wide. The average adult beetle can easily fit on a penny.

EAB attacks all ash trees and once EAB infests a tree it will likely die within three to five years after symptoms are seen. Today there is no known treatment or pesticide that is 100% effective against the beetle.

### Q. What is being done?

A. Federal funds support The Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Program where the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and State agencies work together with municipalities, universities, the green industry and the public at large to detect, control, and manage EAB.

### Q. What is my role?

A. Become an active participant and support the Program. Don't move firewood, visually inspect your trees, know State and Federal regulations, spread the word about EAB and ask questions. Also, if you notice any activity or situation involving firewood, green lumber, logs or any other wood product, use the contact information listed on this factsheet.

### Q: What other areas are quarantined for the emerald ash borer?

A: The entire states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois are quarantined, in addition to the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and various counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Go to [http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState\\_EABpos.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf) for a current map of quarantined areas.

### Q. What items are restricted from moving freely from the quarantined areas?

A. The following can only be moved from a quarantined area with federal approval: (1) the emerald ash borer (2) all hardwood species of firewood (3) ash nursery stock, green ash lumber and other materials living, dead, cut or fallen including logs, stumps, roots, branches and composted and uncomposted ash chips. In addition, any other article or product may be determined to be a regulated article if an inspector determines that it presents a risk of spreading EAB. These items are called 'regulated articles'.

### Q. Is there any way I can legally move ash products such as logs, lumber, stumps, branches, and chips greater than 1 inch in diameter outside of Illinois, or other quarantined areas?

A. Yes, the first step is to contact either the USDA, or IDALS for assistance. There are opportunities for timber, wood and tree care industries to continue to conduct business through the use of processing options associated with compliance agreements, certificates or limited permits. Effective treatment options for these regulated articles include removal of bark and one half inch of wood, kiln drying sterilization and fumigation.

### Q. What is a compliance agreement, certificate and limited permit and how do I obtain them?

A. These documents are simply written agreements between a person moving regulated articles and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and USDA where you agree to comply with the requirements of the agreement. Compliance agreements, certificates and limited permits are monitored by State and/or Federal regulatory personnel.

For additional information or questions please call or write to:

Robert Meinders  
State Plant Health Director  
United State Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
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