



Michigan Emerald Ash Borer Response Project

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan State University
U.S. Department of Agriculture

2005 Emerald Ash Borer Detection Tree Program Frequently Ask Questions

1) What is the Emerald Ash Borer?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a highly aggressive, Asian insect discovered in southeast Michigan in 2002. To date, it is responsible for the death and/or damage of approximately 15 million ash trees in the 20 quarantined counties and 19 outlying infestations. It threatens the viability of 700 million ash trees in Michigan and about 8 billion across North America.

2) What is being done about EAB in Michigan?

An active, cooperative EAB response effort, including the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Michigan State University (MSU) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is in place to detect and contain EAB in the state.

Detecting and containing EAB is critical to the success of the federal, multi-state, multi-agency response efforts in North America. Research has shown the use of detection trees to be a very useful tool in the early detection of the pest, especially in areas of low beetle populations. Based on the recommendations of the EAB National Science Advisory Panel, the EAB Response Project first implemented this program in 2004.

3) What is a detection tree?

An EAB detection tree is an ash tree with a section of the bark removed, or “girdled,” from tree trunk. Research has shown that the EAB adults are more attracted to a stressed tree. It has proven to be a very useful tool in finding the early stages of an EAB infestation, which helped locate previously undetected populations of the beetle during the 2004 EAB detection tree program.

4) Where will the detection trees be located?

The EAB ash detection trees will be strategically trees located in every county at varying densities – except in the 20 quarantined counties in southeast Michigan. Trees chosen will be 4 to 8 inches in diameter and located in roadway rights-of-way whenever possible, and in state parks and state and federal recreation areas. Trees will not be selected on private property without specific permission from the property owner.

5) What will happen to the detection trees?

The trees will be identified and girdled beginning April 18, 2005, and will be in place until mid-September. Beginning in mid-September, the detection trees will be cut down, the bark peeled to look for EAB larva, and properly disposed of in accordance with the state quarantine regarding regulated ash materials. Any outlying EAB infestations identified through the 2005 detection tree program will be incorporated into the state’s EAB containment strategy.

6) What is a regulated material/article?

Regulated articles include: all ash trees, ash branches, ash untreated logs, and ash wood chips larger than 1 inch (in two dimensions) and non-coniferous (hardwood) firewood. Trees with roots attached are prohibited from sale and movement within, into and out of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.