

Since June 2006, when the emerald ash borer (EAB) was first discovered in Illinois, state and federal officials have been surveying Illinois' northeastern landscape to determine the extent of spread of this evasive pest. Initially, the damage was minimal as the detection method results were mostly negative, but as the pest bore in and survey tools became more refined, positive finds have become more prevalent. Recent and numerous EAB finds underscore the need for communities to be proactive against EAB. The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) strongly urges community officials to initiate an ash-tree-reduction-strategy within their boundaries today.

- Begin by taking inventory of all ash trees within your community. This will allow you to develop budget needs for labor and equipment, should large-scale ash tree removals become necessary.
- Fill out and sign IDA's EAB Compliance Agreement which can be accessed through www.IllinoisEAB.com
- Aggressively begin to cull the poor-conditioned ash trees in your community.
- Work with local tree care professionals, and public works officials as the first line of EAB-detection. Anyone handling tree debris should enter into and follow the provisions of IDA's EAB compliance agreement.
- Establish a formal plan to record and report inventory reduction (removals) and reforestation activities.
- Start now to develop a communication action plan should the emerald ash borer be found in your community.

EAB is a small metallic green beetle, 1/2 to 3/8 of an inch long. No bigger than a penny, this elusive and invasive pest lays eggs on the trunks of ash trees in the summer months. In the fall, the eggs hatch and become larvae that bore into the tree, feasting on the tree's cambium layer, thereby cutting off the tree's nutrient supply which ultimately causes the tree's decline.



EAB is difficult to detect when it first arrives on a tree. The tree can host EAB for 3-5 years before symptoms become noticeable to anyone, including the trained eye. Unfortunately, the population of EAB grows exponentially with each passing year.

EAB was first discovered in Illinois in June 2006, in Kane County. The Illinois Department of Agriculture has since confirmed EAB infestations in several communities and has issued a quarantine affecting all or parts of 21 counties in northeastern Illinois.

Illinois EAB Compliance Agreement:

Necessary precautions to minimize and control the spread of EAB have been set through a regulatory compliance agreement with IDA. To be compliant, each tree care/removal or landscaping vendor/professional must ensure the following:

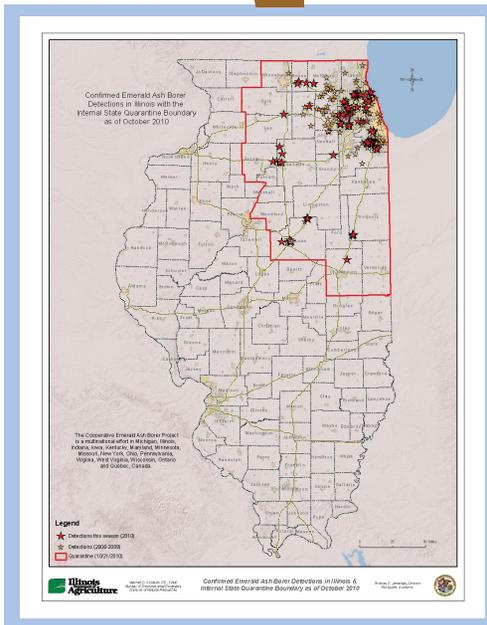
1. Regulated articles shall not be moved out of quarantine zone(s) at any time unless: a) the regulated articles have been chipped/processed to a size measuring less than 1.0 inch in two dimensions; or b) the bark and outer 1/2 inch of sapwood has been removed;
2. From April 30 to September 1, regulated articles originating from EAB-infested areas shall only be transported within the quarantine zone(s) if: a) the regulated articles are transported in an enclosed vehicle or a vehicle completely enclosed by

a covering, such as canvas, plastic or other tightly woven cloth, adequate to prevent the passage of the Emerald Ash Borer to the environment; and b) upon arrival at the final destination, the regulated articles are immediately processed to compliance standards;

3. All ash stumps will be ground to eight inches (8") below the soil surface and covered with soil;
4. Employers will inform their employees about the EAB quarantine zone(s) borders and about EAB quarantine regulations. Employers will also instruct employees how to identify the EAB and its signs;
5. The Illinois Department of Agriculture will be informed of any suspected EAB infestation;
6. A copy of this compliance agreement will be carried by employees working within EAB quarantine zone(s);
7. Per this agreement, ash products, ash nursery stock and/or live ash trees that originate from or are brought into a quarantine zone may not be removed from the zone, and may be subject to immediate processing to compliance standards, confiscation, and destruction; and
8. Movement of ALL deciduous (non-coniferous) firewood out of or through the quarantine zone(s) is prohibited, regardless of initial origin unless the firewood was treated compliant with one of the following: a) USDA-APHIS-PPQ Kiln Sterilization Standard T404-b-4; b) USDA-APHIS-PPQ Fumigation Treatment Standard T404-b-1-1; USDA-APHIS-PPQ Heat Treatment Standard T314-a; or d) all bark and the outer 1/2 inch of sapwood has been completely removed.

*"Regulated Articles" are defined as the following:

- 1) The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire) in any living stage of development;
- 2) Ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) of any size;
- 3) Ash limbs and branches;
- 4) Any cut non-coniferous firewood;
- 5) Bark from ash trees and wood chips larger than one inch in two dimensions from ash trees;
- 6) Ash logs and lumber with either the bark or the outer one-half-inch of sapwood or both, attached;
- 7) Any item made from or containing the wood of the ash tree which is capable of spreading the emerald ash borer;
- 8) Any other article, product, or means of conveyance that it presents the risk of spread of the Emerald Ash Borer in any stage of development.



Please visit www.IllinoisEAB.com for continual updates and regulatory concerns. The IDA strongly recommends that municipalities use contractors who are working under a signed Illinois EAB Compliance Agreement. This will help ensure slowing the spread of EAB across the region. A list of all companies and entities currently working under this agreement are on the www.IllinoisEAB.com website.

Chipping ash debris to less than one inch in two dimensions will destroy any hidden EAB larvae and is therefore a proven control method. Many other options are also listed on the website, such as wood-utilization alternatives and tree replanting information.

As part of a cooperative agreement with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), the IDA is the lead regulatory agency and is responsible for EAB survey outreach and education in the state. Persons with questions are encouraged to contact our IDA Outreach Coordinator at agr.eab@illinois.gov

Having witnessed the events and patterns that unfolded since the initial confirmation of EAB in southeast Michigan during the summer of 2002 and working endlessly with EAB in Illinois since its confirmation in 2006, IDA officials are united in their belief that it will take the cooperative effort of everyone including federal, state, and local officials, community advocates, tree care professionals and local residents to manage the devastation this invasive pest will cause. The documented spread of this pest across Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Ontario (Canada), and now several other states, is continually alarming.

Looking at what has been found through survey efforts here in Illinois leads one to believe we are in for a long, significant battle against this pest. Current survey data reveals that we are entering a period of time where EAB is on the verge of rapid spread, especially in areas where it has already been confirmed. This will be a significant urban management problem for every municipality with large ash inventories.

Community Action Plan Suggestions:

1. Identify and educate a core internal team. Provide training to forestry, street and public works department staff as well as other local tree authorities.
2. Enter into an EAB compliance agreement with IDA. Also, help spread the word that anyone giving or selling ash stock or other hardwood, originating from within the internal state quarantined area, must inform the person receiving the wood of the existence of the EAB quarantine and the resulting restrictions on wood movement.
3. Educate city officials of the magnitude of potential tree loss in your community. Detail potential costs to your community for tree loss and tree replacement.
4. Educate local advisory and tree advocacy groups on EAB biology, EAB quarantine compliance and instructions for local monitoring programs. Provide a local protocol for reporting potential incidents in your community.
5. Implement a public education campaign to notify and educate residents about EAB and your community's action plan to begin removing poor-conditioned ash, plans for reforestation, and any proposed tax levies being considered to support funding of the local program.
6. Remove or replace as many ash trees as possible each year to reduce the ash population.



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Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois
(PA#69-10M-11/10)



EAB Community Action Plan



www.IllinoisEAB.com



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