

IDA EXPANDS STATE EMERALD ASH BORER QUARANTINE

Boundaries now include 61 of Illinois' 102 counties



Twelve counties have been added to Illinois' emerald ash borer (EAB) quarantine, the state Department of Agriculture announced last November.

The new additions to the boundaries include seven counties where the tree-killing beetle was identified for the first time this year and five that are considered to be at risk of infestation.

"Those five counties – Christian, Franklin, Fulton, Jefferson and Mason – do not have a confirmed detection," EAB program manager Scott Schirmer said. "Each, however, is bordered by at least two counties that do and could benefit by implementing quarantine rules, which are intended to prevent the spread of the beetle through the movement of potentially-infested items like firewood."

The seven, new EAB discoveries were made in Logan, Menard, Peoria, Perry, Sangamon, Tazewell and Williamson counties. With their addition, as well as the addition of the five "at risk" counties, the quarantine now covers 61 of Illinois' 102 counties. Specifically, it prohibits the removal of the following items:

- The emerald ash borer in any living stage of development.
- Ash trees of any size.
- Ash limbs and branches.
- Any cut, non-coniferous firewood.
- Bark from ash trees and wood chips larger than one inch from ash trees.
- Ash logs and lumber with either the bark or the outer one-inch of sapwood, or both, attached.
- Any item made from or containing the wood of the ash tree that is capable of spreading the emerald ash borer.

- Any other article, product or

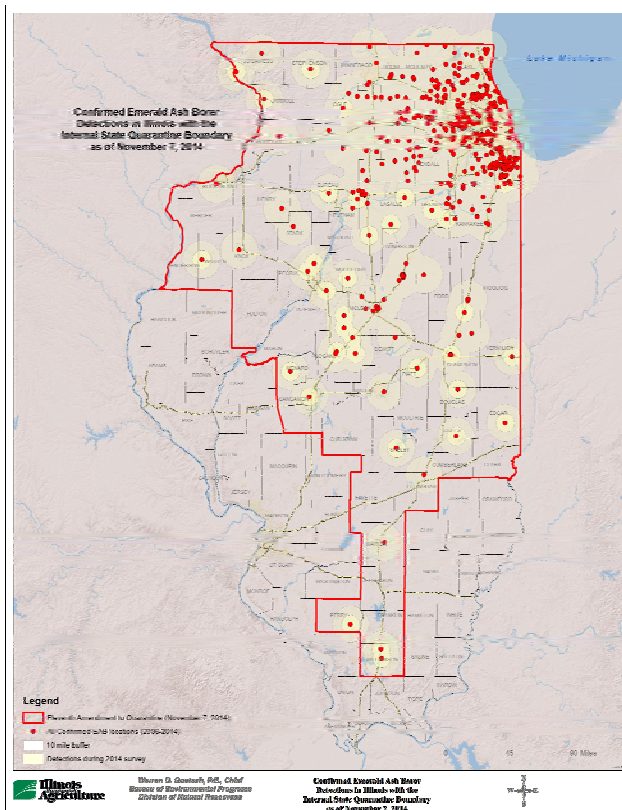
means of conveyance determined by the IDOA to present a risk of spreading the beetle infestation.

The emerald ash borer is a small, metallic-green beetle native to Asia. Its larvae burrow into the bark of ash trees, causing the trees to starve and eventually die. Since the first detection of the pest near Detroit, Mich., in 2002, it has killed more than 250 million ash trees.

The beetle often is difficult to detect, especially in newly-infested trees. Signs of infestation include thinning and yellowing leaves, D-shaped holes in the bark of the trunk or branches and basal shoots. Anyone who suspects an ash tree has been infested should contact their county Extension office, their village forester or the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

In addition to the 12 new counties, EAB quarantine also includes Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cook, Cumberland, DeKalb, DeWitt, Douglas, DuPage, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Grundy, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Macon, Marion, Marshall, McHenry, McLean, Mercer, Moultrie, Ogle, Piatt, Putnam, Rock Island, Shelby, Stark, Stephenson, Vermilion, Warren, Whiteside, Will, Winnebago and Woodford counties.

The full quarantine order and detailed information about the EAB program can be found on the internet at www.IllinoisEAB.com





A Positive Reflection on EAB By Scott Schirmer

Reflecting upon the Emerald Ash Borer situation in Illinois, 2014 was definitely a disheartening year, but I can't say it was completely unexpected. 16 new counties were confirmed positive in the year alone, 7 of which were outside the established quarantine. Compare this figure to a total of 34 from when it was first detected in 2006, up to the end of 2013, and we had about a 50% increase in confirmed communities. It remains uncertain as to whether we have hit that arbitrary critical point in the infestation as a State, or perhaps the weather of 2012 and 2013 has stressed the trees and contributed to increased vulnerability to EAB. Still perhaps, maybe the weather conditions have actually highlighted or accelerated existing EAB infestation making it that much more apparent earlier than expected. Nonetheless, with a 7 year average of around 5 new counties confirmed positive per year, seeing 16 in a single season sure seems significant.

As a whole, and rightfully so, the main perception of EAB has been dominantly negative, a "doom and gloom" scenario that has no positive anything associated with it, but dare I beg to differ? Considering the aforementioned, I think larger government has a tendency to focus, when it comes to EAB, on newly detected areas, as well as areas where EAB has not been found. This makes sense in that their major objectives are detection survey and subsequent regulations and quarantines; a State-level or national-level perspective. On top of this, most, if not all, of the education and outreach efforts are executed in these same areas. This has a tendency to lend to the highly negative perspective; we're primarily working in areas where people are expecting and preparing for the worst, and we are helping them prepare for it.

However, the forest gets lost for the trees (pun intended) considering the local level back in the core area. Again, much of the focus remains on the devastation EAB will cause, and how to prepare for this proactively in anticipation of its detection, and this happens out beyond the leading edge. Yet, communities have been battling EAB for years, and the management of this pest ultimately comes to rest on the shoulders of local governments. The impacts EAB will have become determined by the decisions made on the local level, within these communities, for better or worse, but what also seems to get lost are the success stories, or the stories of communities working their way through EAB and reaching an end, or at least seeing an attainable one in the near future.

Going into 2015, some communities in Illinois have been battling EAB for 8 years now, but more fall into the 4-6 year range, so they have had time to make a difference, and many have. Mike Collins, municipal forester for the Village of Riverside, sees EAB as a way to make lemonade from lemons. "EAB is challenging but not unmanageable. Ultimately, I see it as a great opportunity to diversify species on urban parkways in a short time frame. We are losing such a large percentage of our inventory and it's nice to replace with many different species." Riverside is a historic village with natural areas mixed in to the residential, and those areas have too been impacted by EAB. "Also, I have started a few woodland restoration projects along the Des Plaines River due to canopy openings created by the loss and removal of ash trees." Riverside was confirmed positive for EAB in September of 2010, so after four plus years, when asked if he saw an end near, Collins said "I have about 300-400 ash left on inventory and it does feel nice to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

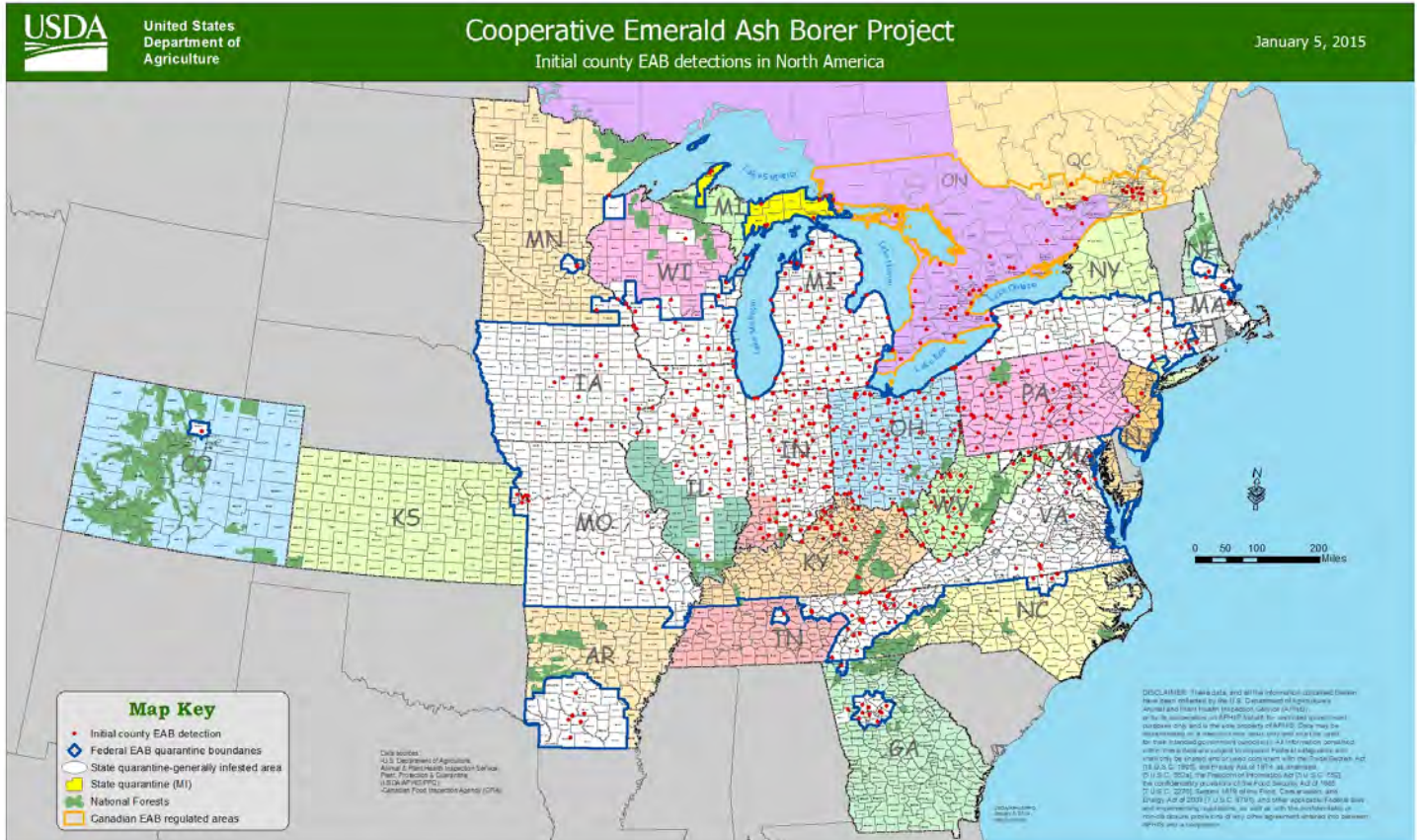
Algonquin, a village located primarily in far southeast McHenry County, was confirmed a few years earlier, and Steve Ludwig, General Services Superintendent for the Village, attributes early planning and communication as the key to success. "Algonquin was identified as infested in 2008. We did some great work in preparing our constituents early, and continued to do so often." "We came up with Algonquin's plan, not someone else's plan for us." The Village had 5022 community

owned trees when EAB was first found, and when asked to reflect upon the current situation and how the plan they developed worked, Ludwig had this profound perspective, "Today we have about 500 trees left to remove and about 2,000 to replace. As we head toward the more manageable end of our journey I would relate the following things; it's a tragedy, but it further bonded an amazing team. It impacted our town dramatically, but cured our diversity problems. It taught us to breathe, to have great patience, to have compassion for others, and to really appreciate what we had, but more importantly, what we have. Instead of feeling overwhelmed, we chose to control the things we could very well. We are better people because of this tragedy, and by our commitment, we will leave this town a great legacy of an amazing, healthy, and diverse forest, as a gift from those of us who patiently dominated our EAB invasion."

The Village of Wilmette, in northern Cook County, was the first incorporated community confirmed in Illinois, found one month after EAB was first detected in the State. From the earliest confirmed community in in the State, Kevin Sorby, arborist for the Village, said "For 2014 Wilmette planted more trees than removed for the 1st time since 2006, the year we found the 1st EAB beetle within Cook County. There is a light at the end of the tunnel for those that actively manage EAB within their community."

The Village of Homewood in southern Cook County, decided to take action as soon as EAB was identified in Michigan in 2002, according to Jim Tresouthick, village arborist and supervisor of the landscape and maintenance division. This was partly due to Homewood's location near many transportation corridors, relative proximity to states with known infestations, and the fact that they were near many processors and manufacturers of ash material, three facts that increased the probability of an EAB introduction. Homewood ceased planting ash trees in 2002, began systematically searching for EAB during regular tree maintenance while expanding communication locally and regionally, tabulating numbers for sound decision making, and researching management methods. Homewood found EAB in November of 2007, and implemented their plan in the spring of 2008. After examining all aspects of management and cost, it was determined not to treat, but rather put resources and efforts toward removal and replacement diversification. From November 2008 until the last tree was cut in 2013, more than 2500 ash trees were removed. Reforestation of these lost trees is still ongoing, but more remarkable is the diversification achieved in these removals. Depending upon stock availability and quality from year to year, Tresouthick was able to replant 29 to 58 different species of trees to fill the void left behind from the ash. This will pay dividends in not only an interesting and unique urban forest, but will also prevent major impacts from future invasives. Again, a silver lining in the ability to diversify as a result of EAB, and a shining example of preparing and having a plan, executing that plan, and coming out of the storm.

The overall sentiment of EAB continues to be one of overwhelming devastation, destruction, and hopelessness, and I think this is mostly due to an unexpected outcome and the anticipation of loss. Perhaps it's time to try and look at it from a different perspective, and take if from the folks that have been there and done that, that looked it in the eye, stood strong, and battled it best they could to make their way through it, and arguably came out ahead in doing so. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and it can be very bright.



The Federal Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

Beginning July 1, 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) modified regulatory policy to permit unrestricted movement of regulated articles within Federal contiguous quarantine areas, except in the protected areas in Illinois and Indiana. Regulations pertaining to the movement of regulated articles out of an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine area remain unchanged.

The Emerald Ash Borer Program is a cooperative initiative between the USDA and State regulatory authorities. The USDA is responsible for regulating ash material or hardwood firewood when it moves from one State into another State—this is *interstate* movement. State officials have regulatory authority when ash material or hardwood firewood moves anywhere within a State—this is *intrastate* movement.

Historically, EAB quarantine areas in different States were treated as separate regulated areas. Under the new policy, contiguous quarantine areas that cross State borders—and are not associated with the protected areas in Illinois and Indiana—will be treated as a single regulated area and will not be subject to regulatory restrictions. However, the conditions for movement of regulated articles with destinations in the protected areas in Illinois and Indiana are unchanged and require a limited permit or Federal certificate. A limited permit or Federal certificate is also required to move regulated articles out of an EAB quarantine area.

There are interior State EAB quarantines that restrict the movement of EAB-regulated articles. You should contact your State regulatory authority before moving EAB-regulated materials intrastate (within the State)

By modifying quarantine regulations, the USDA has been able to focus its resources along the perimeter of the quarantine areas, which helps maximize its effectiveness in preventing the human assisted spread of EAB. In addition, USDA continues surveying for the pest to monitor EAB infestations and locate any unknown beetle populations. Lastly, USDA continues working with other agencies and co-operators to pursue biological control and research initiatives to help protect and maintain ash trees within our Nation's landscapes and forests.

The boundaries of the contiguous Federal quarantine (see map link below) will expand when EAB is detected in a new county that borders the current contiguous quarantines. For the most current EAB quarantine map, visit the following URL:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/downloads/eab_quarantine_map.pdf

There may be Federal and/or State quarantines in effect for pests other than the EAB. Therefore, maintaining a relationship with the USDA and/or your State regulatory authority is important.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CERTIFICATE APPLICATION
2015 Firewood Importer's Certificate

Firewood Importer Name & Address (please complete):

Mail application and appropriate fee payable to:

(name)

(address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(e-mail address or web page)

Illinois Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Environmental Programs
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794-9281
 (217) 785-2427 -- TDD # (217) 785-2427

Fee: \$25.00

Please provide the address of **each** location where firewood is stored or handled (if additional space is needed, please attach a separate sheet):

1.	_____	_____	Illinois	_____
	<small>(Storage or handling site name & street address)</small>	<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State)</small>	<small>(Zip Code)</small>
2.	_____	_____	Illinois	_____
	<small>(Storage or handling site name & street address)</small>	<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State)</small>	<small>(Zip Code)</small>
3.	_____	_____	Illinois	_____
	<small>(Storage or handling site name & street address)</small>	<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State)</small>	<small>(Zip Code)</small>
4.	_____	_____	Illinois	_____
	<small>(Storage or handling site name & street address)</small>	<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State)</small>	<small>(Zip Code)</small>
5.	_____	_____	Illinois	_____
	<small>(Storage or handling site name & street address)</small>	<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State)</small>	<small>(Zip Code)</small>

I (We) import firewood for (check all that apply):

_____ Wholesale distribution
 _____ Retail sales
 _____ Other (please describe): _____

Imported firewood State(s) of Origin (for example: Indiana, Michigan, etc.): _____

Imported firewood County of Origin (for example: Kane, Will, Logan, etc.): _____

USDA EAB Compliance Agreement Number: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone #: (_____) _____

FEIN/SSN: _____ IBT # (Sales Tax): _____

(signature)

(date)

Note: This certificate application form must be completed & returned within 30 days. Please include all fees with your application and retain a copy for your records.

This agency is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under 505 ILCS 90/1 et seq. Failure to provide this information shall prevent this form from being processed. This form has been approved by the state forms management center.

For Office Use Only:	
Date Received:	_____
Check #:	_____
Amount:	_____
Revenue Code	522
Certificate Number	_____
Certificate Issue Date	_____