

Emerald Ash Borer

USDA Forest Service

Northeastern Area

State and Private Forestry

A Threat to America's Forests: One Year Later



Description: The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* is a non-native insect from Asia that threatens our urban and rural forests. EAB was found in the Detroit metropolitan area in July 2002 and shortly thereafter in Windsor, Ontario (Canada). Spot infestations resulting from the movement of infested nursery stock or firewood from Michigan have been found in Maryland, Ohio and Virginia. The EAB infests walnuts and elms in its native habitat. In North America, EAB is found only on ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), an abundant tree species in urban areas, rural woodlots, and riparian areas. Millions of ash trees have been killed in Michigan by EAB. Thirteen Michigan counties are under federal and state quarantines to stop the further transport of infested material out of the area.

Key Issues:

- The potential for further spread of EAB is high.
- An aggressive campaign must be maintained to prevent the movement of infested material from the quarantined counties and to survey intensively to delimit the infested area.
- Large-scale tree removals are necessary to control EAB, prevent its spread, and to address the potential hazard to people and property from dead trees.
- A sustained effort is needed to reestablish a healthy tree canopy in the affected areas.
- Studies are needed to find cost effective management tools and control strategies.
- Project activities in 2004 will help determine if the current EAB strategy is feasible.
- Budget constraints in Michigan and other states limit their ability to match federal funds.

Accomplishments:

- Located a Forest Service tree restoration coordinator in the EAB project office.
- Conducted EAB early detection surveys in Michigan and nine other states in 2003.
- Allocated \$1.8 million to Michigan for tree restoration assistance.
- Initiated studies into survey techniques, chemical and biological control, EAB survival in wood chips, and development of markets for ash wood and fiber.
- Developed a national EAB risk map for targeting survey and monitoring efforts.

Budget History:

Emerald Ash Borer Eradication (\$ Thousands)				
	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Total	\$0	\$20	\$3,692*	\$3,750

* Includes \$2.8 million in emergency funds (Commodity Credit Corporation) from APHIS

Future Direction:

- Develop tree restoration and forest management plans that support the EAB program.
- Develop markets for ash wood and fiber.
- Implement risk based monitoring and early detection survey in high risk areas in cooperation with plant pest regulatory officials.

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