

June 14, 2006

Dear Member:

As you may have heard, the Emerald Ash Borer has been detected and confirmed in Illinois.

Unfortunately, when situations like this arise, accurate information is not always conveniently available; instead, rumors and inaccuracies often create undue concern or even panic.

To ensure our members are fully and accurately informed, we have developed the following informational packet, including the "INA Member Alert" to provide you with the facts you need.

As always, please don't hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns. We will stay on top of the situation, and continue to keep you fully informed as new information becomes available.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave Bender  
Executive Director

# **INA MEMBER ALERT**

## **Emerald Ash Borer – What You Need to Know!**

### ***Here are 10 Facts:***

- #1: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been detected in northern Illinois. As of right now, the evidence of an EAB infestation has been detected/confirmed only in the Kane County area just east of Lily Lake.
- #2: Before any action can/will be taken by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or any other local, state or federal agencies, the IDOA must conduct an extensive survey of ash trees in the area to determine the extent of the damage and to attempt to ascertain the magnitude of the infestation.
- #3: On July 17, the IDOA will hold a public hearing (location to be determined), to discuss the findings of the survey; to take public comment; and to recommend a formal plan of action which may include quarantines, restrictions on the movement of Ash trees, removal and destruction of Ash trees in the area affected, etc. The INA obviously will make sure members are aware of the hearing's location and time, and association staff will be present to ensure our members are represented and kept fully informed.
- #4: Hence, no further formal regulatory actions will be taken until the hearing on July 17. However, in the meantime, the USDA has asked for the cooperation of everyone in the area affected to “voluntarily” halt any movement of Ash trees.
- #5: The INA participated in a press conference yesterday in Geneva, Illinois, where state and federal officials officially announced that the EAB had been detected and confirmed in Illinois.
- #6: The INA expressed its appreciation for ongoing efforts of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and pledged its support to assist in the eradication of the pest.

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- #7: The IDOA stated publicly that nursery stock was not the cause of the infestation, and that at present, they have no reason to believe that nursery stock has been affected by the EAB. However, obviously that can change as the infestation spreads.
- #8: The INA has retained former IDOA inspector Stan Smith (now retired), who was the architect of the State of Illinois' successful eradication of the Asian longhorn beetle, as our consultant on the EAB issue to advise our members on:
- Actions you can take now to minimize the risk to your stock and business;
  - Proper techniques and strategies for addressing the threat;
  - Probable courses of action likely to be implemented by the IDOA;

*Stan also will be available to our members to answer questions, allay concerns, dispel rumors and fiction, and maybe most important, to inspect stock.*

- #9: IDOA has advised anyone from the general public who may suspect a tree has been infested to immediately contact their county Extension office. The IDOA also is offering a toll-free hotline at 800-641-3934 for the general public to report "extension-confirmed" infestations.
- #10: The INA, on the other hand, urges you – our members – to contact us immediately if you suspect the presence of EAB at your nursery so we can dispatch Stan Smith in the most expeditious manner possible to inspect the stock in question.

THANK YOU!

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**Note:**

Attached is Stan Smith's assessment of the current situation, and also the official press release from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (*distributed to the media on Tuesday, June 13, 2006*).

**Provided by Stan Smith**  
(Former IDOA inspector - *now retired*)  
**Retained as the INA Consultant on the EAB**

**Submitted:**  
**June 13, 2006**

It's here! The Emerald Ash Boer (EAB) has arrived in Illinois. It was discovered in Kane County near Lily Lake. This pest, if left unchecked, can and probably will destroy most of the Ash trees in the state. EAB – although it only attacks Ash trees unlike the Asian Longhorn Beetle, which attacked multiple species – will be a ***much harder*** pest to control or eradicate. The EAB is a small, approx. one-half inch long, dark, green shiny beetle. It is a strong flier and can move up to a half-mile a year on its own. It is very difficult to survey. The exit holes in the bark of the trees are very small D-shaped holes, smaller than a BB, and difficult to see. The infestations usually start in the crowns of the trees making survey even more difficult.

***What will this mean for the nurserymen in Illinois?*** In the area that ultimately will be placed under quarantine, all Ash trees and wood will be prohibited from moving out of the area. Outside of the quarantined area, movement of Ash materials will not be affected. The size and boundaries of the quarantine will not be determined until the Illinois Department of Agriculture completes its survey for the beetle. This will take several weeks or more. My best guess is that the quarantined area will be at least several townships in size, maybe larger. Once the quarantine goes into effect, the state and federal regulatory agencies will implement control measures to try to eradicate the borer and enforce the non-movement of Ash products. If this area is - in fact - still isolated, infestation eradication may be able to be done. Obviously, that's the best-case scenario. The eradication method most likely will be removal and destruction of all Ash trees within the infested area. This will be done after the final adult flight and before emergence of the adults in the spring of 2007. However, if other areas become infested and the infestations are found to be more widely scattered, as in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, eradication will not be possible and the State will attempt to stop movement by stricter quarantines and regulation of all Ash products.

***What can a nursery do now that the EAB is here?*** If you are near the infestation, you should immediately check your trees for signs of EAB before moving any stock. If you are inside the quarantined area, no Ash products will be allowed to move outside the quarantined area. Ash firewood should not be sold to people who may take it outside of your immediate area. Firewood is the prime method that spreads EAB and is probably how it arrived in Illinois. Anyone selling firewood should be very aware of where it originated. Firewood from Michigan Ohio, and Indiana should not be brought into Illinois, period.

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If your nursery is outside of the quarantined areas, it should continue to be business as usual.

Nurseries that are close to the infected area or that unfortunately fall inside the area could assist the IDOA in the survey by donating some ash trees to be used as trap trees. These trap trees would be girdled to represent a distressed tree. There are no lures to attract the adult borers, but trap trees do work. Anyone interested in providing trees to support this effort, should contact the INA office, which will contact the appropriate staff at IDOA.

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# NEWS

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CHARLES A. HARTKE, DIRECTOR • ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 13, 2006

**CONTACTS:**

Jeff Squibb 217-558-1546

Chris Herbert 217-558-1539

## **EMERALD ASH BORER CONFIRMED IN ILLINOIS**

*Illinois Department of Agriculture activates state response plan to eradicate the exotic pest; urges public to learn the signs of EAB infestation and promptly report suspected cases*

GENEVA, Ill. – A destructive, non-native pest that feasts on ash trees has been detected in northern Illinois. The Illinois Department of Agriculture announced today that a beetle found in the yard of a Kane County home east of Lily Lake is an emerald ash borer (EAB).

“A coalition of local, state and federal agencies, including the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Forest Service and Illinois Department of Agriculture, has been preparing for this day the past two years,” Agriculture Director Chuck Hartke said. “Now that the emerald ash borer has been confirmed within our borders, we’ll activate our response plan and begin the task of eradicating it. The first step is to conduct an extensive survey of ash trees in the area to determine the extent of damage. The findings will help establish boundaries for a quarantine that will stop the movement of potentially contaminated wood and nursery products out of the area and prevent the spread of this pest.”

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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. While the beetle does not pose any direct risk to public health, it does threaten the tree population. Since the emerald ash borer was first confirmed in the Midwest in the summer of 2002, more than 20 million ash trees are dead or dying.

“We’ve had tremendous success identifying invasive species through public awareness and education,” Warren Goetsch, IDOA division manager of Natural Resources, said. “Nearly every sighting of the Asian Long-horned beetle in Chicago was reported by a citizen. With that kind of assistance here, I’m optimistic we can contain this pest and save ash trees.”

The homeowner discovered the beetle and alerted the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s Illinois field office, which sent the bug to its lab in Romulus, Mich., for identification and notified IDOA nursery inspectors.

Inspectors visited the residence in “The Windings” subdivision where the beetle was found and discovered several infested ash trees. They also canvassed the neighborhood and uncovered at least six additional infested trees within five-blocks of the residence, as well as evidence of an infestation in an adjacent subdivision to the north.

“The diversity of the landscaping in this neighborhood will help our eradication efforts,” Goetsch added. “Only about 5 percent of the trees are ash varieties.”

Inspectors have not determined how the beetle arrived in Illinois, but suspect it may have been transported here in contaminated firewood from a quarantined area in Michigan. Michigan and Illinois are two of the five states where EAB infestations have been confirmed. The others are Indiana, Ohio and Maryland.

EAB/3333

The emerald ash borer typically moves only short distances by flying, but can survive long distances in transit on ash nursery stock, ash logs, branches and firewood. To avoid the accidental introduction of the beetle to new areas, people are advised to purchase only locally-grown nursery stock and locally-cut firewood.

The emerald ash borer is difficult to detect in newly-infested trees. Signs of infestation include the presence of metallic-green beetles about half the diameter of a penny on or around ash trees, thinning and yellowing leaves, D-shaped holes in the bark of the trunk or branches and shoots growing from the base of the tree. Anyone who suspects a tree has been infested is urged to first contact their county Extension office. The Illinois Department of Agriculture also will offer a toll-free hotline at 800-641-3934 for extension-confirmed infestations.

Options for treating infested trees are limited. In most instances, they must be removed.

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