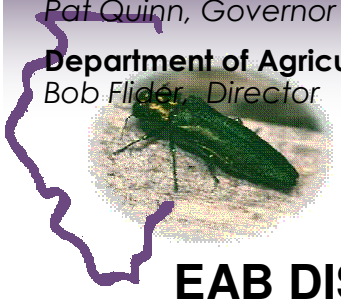
State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor
Department of Agriculture
Bob Flider, Director



EAB NEWS

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Summer 2013
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

EAB DISCOVERED IN NEW ILLINOIS COUNTY

The destructive pest responsible for killing millions of ash trees in North America has been discovered for the first time in Whiteside County, the closest find to date in Illinois to the Iowa border.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) announced in July it has received confirmation that a beetle collected on the county fairgrounds in Morrison is an emerald ash borer (EAB). An alert forestry technician with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources spotted a distressed ash tree on the property and notified IDOA staff, who found a dead, adult beetle in its bark. The beetle was submitted to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which confirmed it as EAB.

"We have monitoring traps throughout Whiteside and its neighboring counties," EAB Program Manager Scott Schirmer said. "Thus far, the infestation appears highly localized. In fact, we have not even been able to confirm EAB in any other ash trees on the property."

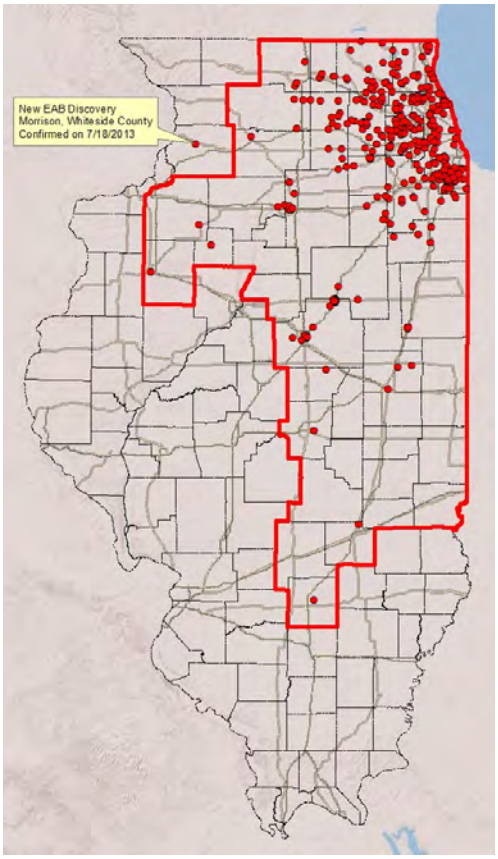
The emerald ash borer is a small, metallic-green beetle native to Asia. Its larvae burrow into the bark of ash trees, causing the trees to starve and eventually die. Since the first detection of the pest near Detroit, Mich., in 2002, it has killed more than 25 million ash trees.

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.

Forty-one Illinois counties currently are under quarantine to prevent the artificial or "human-assisted" spread of the beetle through the movement of infested wood and nursery stock. Specifically, the quarantine 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 Illinois Department of Agriculture to present a risk of spreading the beetle infestation.

The Illinois counties currently included in the state's internal quarantine are Boone, Bureau, Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cook, Cumberland, DeKalb, DeWitt, Douglas, DuPage, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Grundy, Henry, Iroquois, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Macon, Marion, Marshall, McHenry, McLean, Moultrie, Ogle, Piatt, Putnam, Shelby, Stark, Vermilion, Will, Winnebago and Woodford.



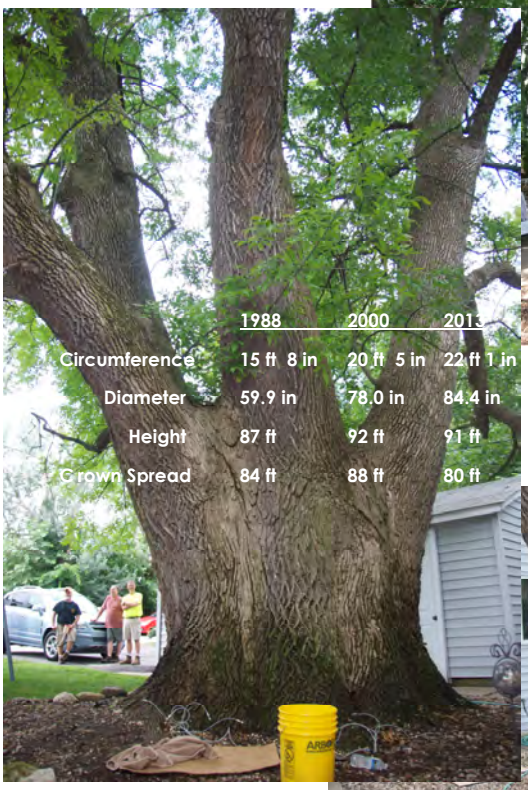
For further information about the beetle, visit www.IllinoisEAB.com.

Illinois' State Champion Green Ash in Clinton, Illinois ~ Dewitt County

Illinois' champion green ash, got a little help from its friends last July. Thought to be about 150 years old, and around in Lincoln's day, the state's record-sized green ash, stands 90' tall and 7' wide and is located in the town of Clinton [DeWitt county]. Due to the eminent arrival of EAB, it was thought that this heritage tree could use some added protection against the heartless predator which is devastating Illinois' ash canopy around the state and nation.

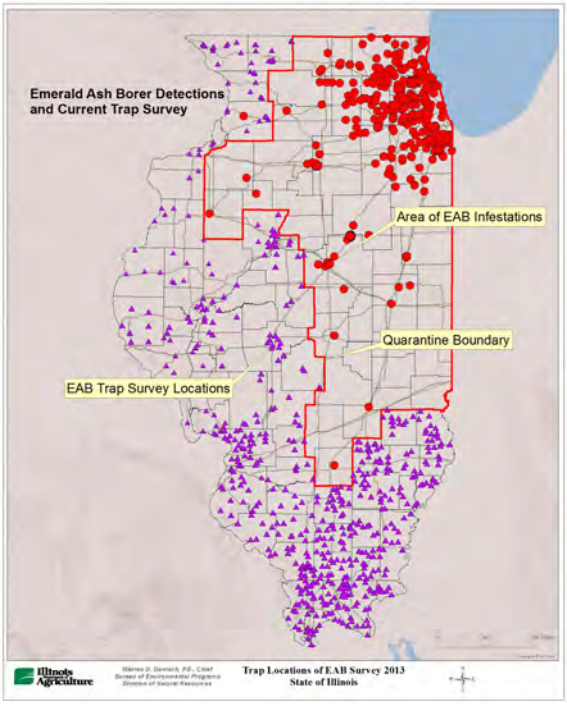
Because of the stature of this tree, Jeff Palmer, a representative from Arborjet, coordinated with the homeowner and DNR tree specialist Kurt Bobsin to begin a treatment program for the tree which began with the initial injection of TREE-age, the professional grade insecticide product sold exclusively by Arborjet in mid-July.

The tree currently appears to be healthy.



	1988	2000	2013
Circumference	15 ft 8 in	20 ft 5 in	22 ft 1 in
Diameter	59.9 in	78.0 in	84.4 in
Height	87 ft	92 ft	91 ft
Crown Spread	84 ft	88 ft	80 ft

From left, homeowner Kelly Howry, State Senator Mike Frerichs, and ArborJet representative Jeff Palmer



2013 EAB TRAPPING SEASON

The Illinois Department of Agriculture anticipates harvesting EAB traps beginning in Mid-August. This year, the IDA placed only 873 traps in 'leading edge of the current 41-county EAB quarantine. The highest density of trap placement was in southern Illinois and high risk areas along the state's western border.

The current quarantine boundary is the 9th amendment since EAB was first discovered in 2006. The current boundary has been in effect since December 10, 2012, and will be adjusted later in the year depending on the 2013 trapping results.

EMERALD ASH BORER CONFIRMED IN DES MOINES COUNTY, and JEFFERSON COUNTY IOWA

New Infestation Discovered in Burlington

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been positively identified in a residential tree in the city of Burlington in Des Moines County, and in a residential tree in the city of Fairfield in Jefferson County, making this the second and third locations where the invasive beetle has been found in Iowa. It initially had been found on Henderson Island on the Mississippi River in Allamakee County in 2010.

Iowa State Entomologist Robin Pruisner said the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, along with USDA, will be issuing a multi-county quarantine in southeast Iowa in the near future. A quarantine by state and U.S. agriculture departments means that hardwood firewood, ash logs and wood chips cannot be moved out of the area without a permit.

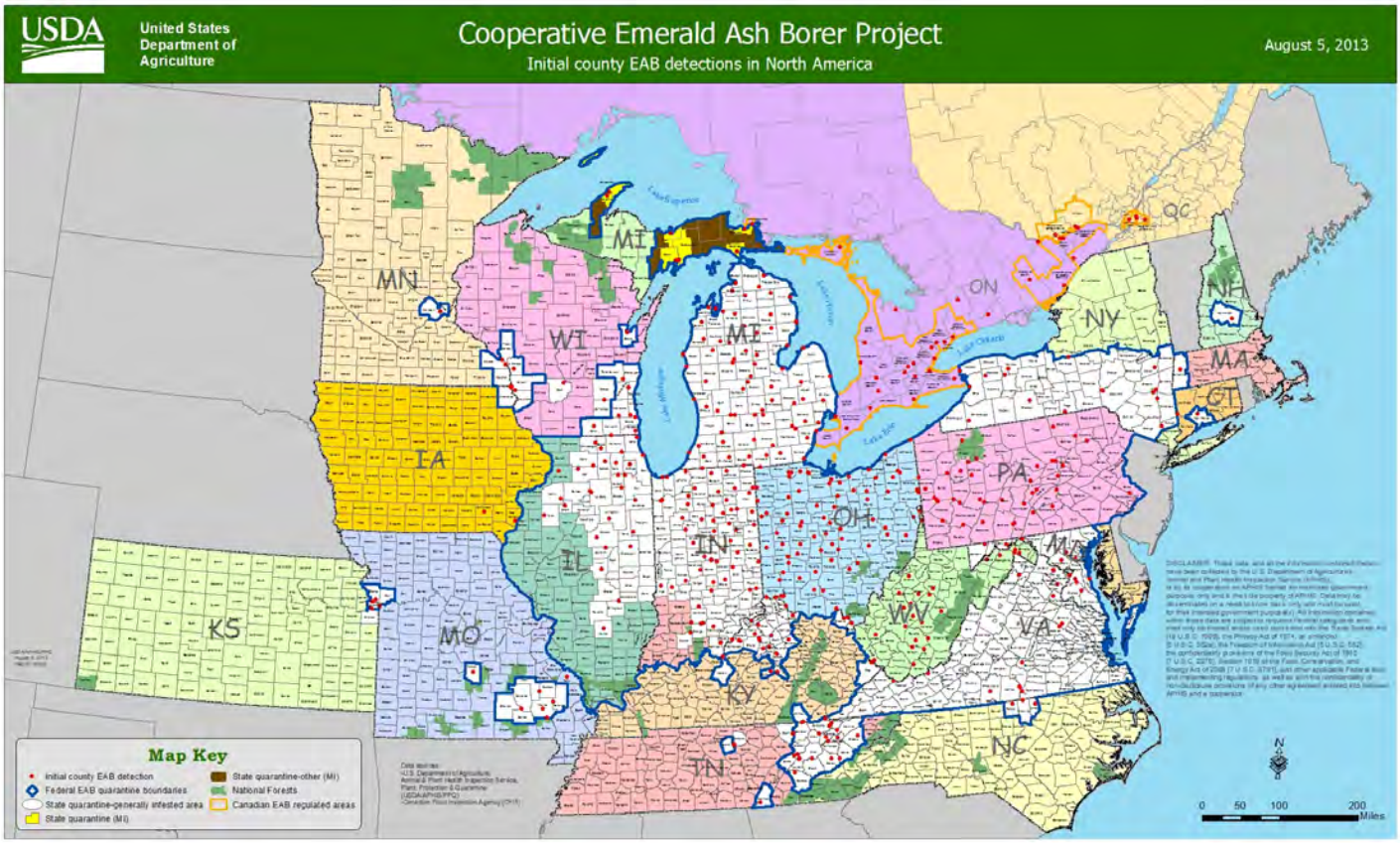
Pruisner said all Iowans are strongly cautioned not to transport firewood across county or state lines, since the movement of firewood throughout Iowa or to other states poses the greatest threat to quickly spread EAB even further. Most EAB infestations in the United States have been started by people unknowingly moving infested firewood, nursery plants, or sawmill logs. The adult beetle also can fly short distances, approximately 2 to 5 miles.

"Treatments against EAB are too late this year. If you are within 15 miles of Burlington, Iowa, and have a healthy ash tree, preventive treatments can be made mid-April to mid-May 2014," said ISU Extension and Outreach Entomologist Mark Shour. For more details, see ISU Extension and Outreach publication PM 2084, www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM2084.pdf.

Photo credit: Heather Marcum, Thornton, IL

Perryville, MO confirmed with EAB

Perry County Missouri has recently been confirmed to be infested with EAB. Perryville, in Perry County Missouri, sits juxtaposed to Illinois' Union County, and is a leading forestry and nursery products exporter and a leading importer of firewood into Illinois. Ten counties in Missouri have been con firmed EAB-infested since July 2008. With concerns from local industry, and detection data not fully collected at this point, the Missouri Department of Agriculture will likely wait to make determinations on quarantine amendments until all supporting data is collected and analyzed.



Illinois Senate Adopts Senate Resolution 1029

The Illinois Senate recently adopted Senate Resolution 1029 which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois comprises part of the largest urban landscape market in the country with more than 4 million ash trees total; our tree canopy now faces a crisis due to the emerald ash borer that will lead to a financial crisis for the State and its many municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Mature trees provide homeowners and municipalities tremendous environmental and economic benefits; trees reduce energy costs in the summer, play a role in rainwater management, and filter air; trees represent quantifiable value to homeowners; conservatively, five percent of a home's value is attributable to the trees on its property; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is now infested with the invasive species known as the emerald ash borer (EAB); 100% of all ash trees in the State of Illinois will be exposed to the EAB in the next five years and every ash tree not treated will expire shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, The average cost of tree removal and replacement in the State of Illinois is approximately $1,000; this crisis will cost the State and its villages, towns, and cities $3 billion to $4 billion over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, Trees can be treated for a fraction of the cost of removal and replacement; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois needs to update its understanding of the science of treating EAB, as integrated management of the EAB has evolved and improved greatly in the past five years; and

WHEREAS, Leading academic researchers from The University of Illinois, Michigan State University, Purdue University, and Ohio State have found insecticide treatment methods to be effective, and one treatment method to be more than 95% effective at preserving ash trees; and

WHEREAS, The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), the prestigious professional organization of practicing arborists, published in May 2012 its latest findings and recommendations on management of the emerald ash borer; the SMA paper warns municipalities of a "financial tsunami" if they are not proactive and develop an EAB management paper; and

WHEREAS, The SMA found that the two extremes of removing trees and doing nothing is neither practical nor prudent; removing trees is not financially viable for many municipalities and does great harm to home values; doing nothing puts people and property at great risk as dead trees will come crashing down in an unpredictable fashion; and

WHEREAS, The SMA found that an integrated approach that utilizes treatment along with the removal of low-grade ash trees is the best management option; and

WHEREAS, The International Society Arboriculture, the premier tree care organization in the world, supports the findings and recommendations of the SMA that advocates conservation of the urban ash canopy as the most prudent and practical management option; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge every village, town, and city within the State of Illinois to reevaluate its EAB management plan in light of the latest facts and recommendations presented by the leading experts in Spring of 2012; specifically, municipalities should spend the little time required to evaluate EAB management options over a 20-year period utilizing readily available and online economic models from either The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point or Purdue University; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Agriculture should publicly communicate and include on its website, http://www.agr.state.il.us, the 2012 EAB Management approach and explain the financial and environmental benefits to municipalities, citizens, and homeowners of that same approach.

As a result, the IDA is carefully reviewing its website and will be adding appropriate information and useful links in the near future.

ATTENTION ALL FIREWOOD IMPORTERS

State Law Requires ALL FIREWOOD IMPORTERS

to register with IDA.

New 2014 Applications for Firewood Importers is available online

If you suspect EAB, please contact your city forester or local arborist or take digital photographs of the tree and the symptoms it is expressing and email them with contact info to: Juliann.Heminghous@Illinois.gov

Emerald Ash Borer Program

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Illinois Department of Agriculture