

Emerald Ash Borer Detection and Response



Situation

The Emerald Ash Borer, a beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, was found in July 2008 in southeastern Wisconsin, in a private woodlot in Ozaukee County. Wisconsin has more than 700 million ash trees, thus this pest poses a serious threat to homeowners and the state's \$3 billion "green" industry. The wood-boring beetle can be transported as infested trees are moved, or through ash products like firewood. Michigan's Lower Peninsula discovered the bug in

Pennsylvania, Missouri and Maryland also have infestations.

Response

Extension's county connections and experience in bringing stakeholders to the table resulted in strong partnerships between local, state and federal agencies and the constituents they serve. A multi-agency team including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the University of Wisconsin-Extension, and others coordinated their response to the infestation quickly and efficiently. UW-Extension's contributions included the facilitation of a series of local informational meetings with state and federal agencies, the general public, and members of Wisconsin's green industry; and the



S-shaped tunnels made by EAB larvae were found under the bark of ash trees in Ozaukee County. Photo courtesy of Wisconsin's Emerald Ash Borer Resource <http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

2002. Ohio, Ontario, Illinois, Virginia, Indiana, West Virginia,

dissemination of the most current educational efforts about EAB identification, biology, chemical management, identifying ash trees, alternatives to ash such as maple, oak and linden, and the importance of diverse landscape plantings.

Contact:

Chris Williamson
608-262-4608
rcwillie@entomology.wisc.edu

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Outcomes

- To date, more than 5,000 industry professionals, including foresters, park managers, landscapers, nursery employees and golf course workers, have learned about the EAB.
- Wisconsin homeowners, woodland owners, Master Gardeners and industry professionals have learned – through UW-Extension field days, short courses, presentations, fact sheets, displays and web sites – about EAB identification, biology, chemical management, identifying ash trees, alternatives to ash and the importance of diverse landscape plantings.