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Facts About Ohio's Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has quarantined the state of Michigan, parts of northwest Ohio, and parts of Indiana to halt the artificial spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an exotic insect from Asia. The quarantine supplements the department's actions to contain EAB in northwest Ohio from Michigan, where it has already killed millions of native ash trees.

EAB is a death sentence for ash trees, killing them within three to five years of infestation. The larvae feed on the cambium layer, the tree's live tissue just beneath the bark. This cuts off the tree's nutrients and water and essentially starves the tree to death. Larvae overwinter beneath the bark and can be inadvertently transported via firewood, logs, or nursery stock – the sources of most of Ohio's infestations.

State Quarantine to Contain the Pest

Governor Bob Taft signed an Executive Order on September 16, 2003, authorizing a quarantine to prevent the spread of EAB. It is illegal to move ash trees, parts of an ash tree, and all hardwood firewood out of these quarantined areas:

- Cuyahoga, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Fulton, Henry, Lorain, Lucas, Marion, Medina, Miami, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Warren, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot counties
- Hancock County: Allen, Cass, Pleasant, Portage, and Washington Townships
- Huron County: Bronson, Clarksfield, Hartland, Lyme, Norwalk, Peru, Ridgefield, Sherman, Townsend, and Wakeman Townships
- Auglaize County: Duchouquet Township
- Franklin County: The area within I-71, I-70, and the Licking and Delaware County borders
- Entire state of Michigan
- Infested Indiana counties: Adams, Hamilton, Huntington, LaGrange, Marion, Steuben, St. Joseph, and Randolph

Regulated Articles Cannot Leave Quarantined Areas

ODA, with assistance from USDA officials, is enforcing EAB regulations to halt the movement of ash-tree materials and firewood. The following regulated articles are subject to the quarantine established in rule 901:5-56-02:

- more -

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- Ash trees (*Fraxinus*) of any size
- Ash limbs and branches
- Any cut non-coniferous (non-evergreen) firewood
- Ash tree bark and ash tree wood chips larger than 1 inch
- Ash logs and lumber with the bark, outer one-half inch of sapwood, or both attached
- Any item made from or containing ash tree wood capable of spreading EAB
- Any means of conveyance capable of spreading the pest

These regulated articles can move into and within a contiguous quarantined area but cannot leave under penalty of law. No regulated articles can be carried from Michigan into Ohio. Violators face fines of up to \$4,000.

Currently, there are four accepted treatments that allow safe movement of regulated articles:

- Debarking plus removal of one-half inch of sapwood
- Chipping to less than 1 inch
- Fumigating according to USDA treatment schedule (contact USDA, 1-866-325-0023)
- Kiln drying according to USDA treatment schedule (contact USDA, 1-866-325-0023)

Compliance Agreements Required to Move Regulated Articles Out of Quarantined Area

Regulated articles are prohibited from leaving quarantined areas without a compliance agreement with ODA and USDA. Compliance agreements are issued primarily to help utilize ash logs and ensure that the bark and outer half inch of sapwood are removed and destroyed to kill any larvae.

Between October 1 and April 1, when the Emerald Ash Borer is not in flight, compliance agreements can be issued to allow movement of whole logs for processing at an approved sawmill. In an eradication zone, firewood sometimes may be kept under the terms of a signed agreement, for use before April 15. If conditions of the compliance agreement are violated, penalties will be levied.

State and federal officials are working with businesses in quarantined areas to get compliance agreements in place, which allows the safe utilization of ash wood. Interested parties should contact USDA officials, 1-866-325-0023; or ODA officials, 1-888-OHIO-EAB.

Federal and Other State Quarantines

In addition to Ohio's quarantine, citizens need to be aware of and abide by other federal and state EAB quarantines. Federal EAB quarantines prohibit the movement of ash tree materials and firewood out of Ohio's quarantined areas. Fines for violating USDA's quarantine are steeper than Ohio's. Information on USDA, Michigan, and Indiana quarantines can be found at www.emeraldashborer.info.