



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Emerald Ash Borer

Lake Shelbyville- You might be wondering what all of those purple things are hanging in the trees. They are sticky traps that Illinois Department of Agriculture officials and cooperators are using to identify potential infestations of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) an invasive metallic green-colored, wood-boring beetle insect that could destroy millions of ash trees in Illinois. There are approximately 6,000 traps being placed in 32 counties across central and northern Illinois that are outside of the current EAB quarantine area.

The trap includes Manuka oil which will attack any nearby emerald ash borers. The insects then get caught on the adhesive tanglefoot on the outside of the trap. The traps will not bring the borer into an area that is not already infested but will simply help officials determine if EAB is already present in the area. These traps that are hung on ash trees before the EAB flight season that begins in May and will be removed after the flight season ends in August. Inspectors from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will closely examine each trap for EAB.

The Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in the Detroit/Windsor Canada area in 2002 and was first discovered in Illinois in June 2006 in Kane County. The theory of how the insect came about is more in likely hitched a ride in a wooden shipping material from Asia. Once in the US, it probably was moved from an infested area via firewood. Once the EAB is present in an ash tree it chokes the tree to death by devouring the layer under the bark. A symptom checklist to determine if you have an EAB infested ash tree:

- Distinct D-shaped exit holes in the bark
- S-shaped tunnels on surface under bark
- Sprout growth at the tree base
- Unusual activity by woodpeckers
- Die-back on the top third of the tree
- Vertical splits in the bark

-More-

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Ash trees are being devastated by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer and have been confirmed in the northern part of the state and continue to spread south. It can hitchhike on traveling firewood unknown to the carrier. The best way to prevent the spread of the EAB is not to move firewood but to buy it at your destination. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers highly recommend that you follow this practice while camping at Lake Shelbyville. For more information regarding the Emerald Ash Borer visit www.illinoisEAB.com or contact Illinois Department of Agriculture at 800-641-3934.

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