



Stream Team Academy
Fact Sheet Series:

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Watch for more Stream Team Academy Fact Sheets coming your way soon. Plan to collect the entire educational series for future reference! Contact us at 1-800-781-1989 if you'd like a copy of previous Fact Sheets.

EMERALD ASH BORER FOUND IN MISSOURI

An Educational Series For Stream Teams To Learn and Collect

After several years of visually surveying for this small invasive insect, emerald ash borer (EAB) has officially been found in Missouri. EAB is a destructive pest that is particular to ash trees only.

The infestation came to light July 23, 2008 when U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) workers discovered seven suspicious beetles on traps at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Greenville Recreation Area in Wayne County. Officials with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service confirmed the identity of the insects and estimate that the insects have been present for about five years.

Missouri is one of ten states to have a confirmed infestation. The pest

was first found in Michigan in 2002. Since that time, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Virginia have confirmed infestations. Missouri is the farthest south and west of any other known emerald ash borer infestation.

State and federal forestry officials have been working overtime to determine the extent of an emerald ash borer outbreak at Lake Wappapello and to develop a strategy for containing the insect. Information to date shows the insect is contained within Wayne County but spread a great distance from the initial campsite. Wayne County has since been placed under Federal and State quarantine. The quarantine prohibits the movement of all hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock, and ash logs. For more information on the quarantine check out www.mda.mo.gov/news/2008/PR08152008.htm.

Response to this infestation will be guided by a response plan crafted by multiple agencies and stakeholders. That plan was formally adopted by the Missouri Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Conservation in early July 2008 just weeks before the insect was detected.

While EAB does not pose any direct risk to public health, it does threaten Missouri's ash tree populations and may have a large economic impact. Ash trees make up



Missouri is one of ten states to have a confirmed infestation of emerald ash borer.

approximately three percent of forests and up to fourteen percent of street trees in Missouri. Since no ash trees in North America are known to be resistant to the pest, infestations are devastating to these tree species.

Adult emerald ash borers are weak fliers and cannot move far from the tree from which they emerge. However, they can move long distances on firewood and nursery stock. With the arrival of this small, metallic green beetle, **it is essential for individuals to not move firewood, to not plant ash trees, and to work in their town to assure that their community has a plan in place** to address the devastating financial impact EAB will have when it arrives.

This summer, Federal and State officials will expand trapping efforts to detect the insect. Emerald ash borer traps are purple, prism-shaped devices with sticky outer surfaces. The borers are attracted by the color and by chemical scents that mimic a stressed ash tree. Insects that land on the traps are stuck and can be identified by periodic checking. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Missouri Department of Natural Resources are working together to develop a uniform policy on how firewood is handled at campgrounds.

For further information about the emerald ash borer, visit www.mdc.mo.gov/11242, or call toll free 1-866-716-9974.



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Don't move firewood – use wood from local sources and burn it all.
- Don't plant ash trees.
- Be alert to signs and symptoms of an emerald ash borer infestation

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- www.eab.missouri.edu
- www.emeraldashborer.info
- www.mdc.mo.gov/forest/features/firewood.htm

