

Prince George's County, Maryland Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Fact Sheet

Q: Why was a quarantine issued?

A: Ash trees are a valuable resource for the nursery, landscaping, and timber industries in Maryland. The emerald ash borer, an exotic, federally-regulated pest that is responsible for the death of more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, threatens these resources. The insect was first detected in Maryland in 2003 after a Michigan nurseryman broke a quarantine in that state and shipped infested trees into a Prince George's County nursery. After 3 years of work, officials believed the insect was eradicated from Maryland. In August 2006, the same experts found evidence that the emerald ash borer is still in the county. The quarantine is in place because of the recent detection.

Q: What areas of Maryland are quarantined?

A: All of Prince George's County is under quarantine. Moving regulated articles out of Prince George's County is prohibited. Additionally, the area of the county south of I-495 and Pennsylvania Avenue is considered to be the Infested Area. Moving regulated articles into the rest of the county from the Infested Area is prohibited.

Q: What are considered to be "regulated articles"?

A: Regulated articles include:

- all life stages of the emerald ash borer
- all hardwood firewood (non-coniferous)
- ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) products including nursery stock, green lumber, and other ash material living, dead, cut, or fallen, including logs, stumps, roots, branches.
- uncomposted ash chips and bark larger than one inch in diameter in two dimensions.

Q: What steps will be taken to solve the problem?

A: Removal and destruction of all ash trees in defined areas is the only way to eradicate the emerald ash borer. In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Prince George's County government, and countless other partners, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is currently conducting surveys to determine the scope of the infestation and determine a course of action. Maryland citizens in affected areas will be notified about survey and eradication efforts through press releases, mailings, Maryland Cooperative Extension, and public meetings.

Q: What can I do to help?

A: Help spread the word. **DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD OUT OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.** In the Midwest, most new infestations have taken place because people have unknowingly taken pest-infested firewood to other locations. Prince George's County residents should consider buying firewood locally to help vendors in the county who can't sell their product elsewhere in Maryland. If you have a vacation destination out of the county, leave your firewood at home:

Don't Pack Firewood - Buy it Where you'll Burn It!

Q: Where can I find out more?

A: Visit www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/eab/ for information regarding the emerald ash borer and the Maryland program. For more additional information or to report suspect emerald ash borer damage, call MDA at 410-841-5920. The Maryland Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center, 800-342-2507, www.hgic.umd.edu, is a good diagnostic resource for homeowners.