NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection datcp.wisconsin.gov

New Emerald Ash Borer Quarantines Cover Four Eastern Wisconsin Counties

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MADISON – Emerald ash borer has been confirmed in Calumet County, which will now be quarantined along with Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Outagamie counties. EAB has not been found in those counties, but they are surrounded or nearly surrounded by counties where the pest has been confirmed.

"It's very likely that EAB is also present in those three counties, but it's difficult to detect low-level infestations, and the new infestation in Calumet County is very close to its border with Outagamie County," said Brian Kuhn, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry in the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. "The pattern of movement of regulated goods within this part of Wisconsin also points to the wisdom of enacting these precautionary quarantines."

The Calumet County infestation was found in the Village of Sherwood, just north of High Cliff Public Golf Course, about four miles from the Outagamie County line.

The quarantines will apply to the entire counties. The State of Wisconsin and the federal government are in consultation with the Oneida Tribe concerning the EAB quarantine within the reservation boundaries. Determination of a quarantine is at the tribe's discretion and a decision by the Oneida Tribe is expected in the near future.

Quarantines prohibit ash wood products and hardwood firewood from being moved to areas that are not quarantined. For businesses handling wood products that could carry EAB, this means that they must work with DATCP to assure that their products are pest-free before shipping to non-quarantine counties. For private citizens, a quarantine means that neither residents nor tourists may take firewood from these counties to non-quarantine counties.

"While it is legal to move firewood within the quarantined counties, we strongly discourage it," Kuhn said. "The vast majority of EAB infestations have resulted from the movement of firewood. EAB is one of a number of forest pests and diseases that can easily and invisibly move from one location to another under the bark of firewood. If we could reduce the long distance movement of firewood we would reduce the spread of many invasive forest pests, not just EAB."

DATCP recommends that property owners who have ash trees in quarantine counties:

- Keep a close watch for possible signs of EAB infestation: Thinning canopy, D-shaped holes in the bark, cracked bark, branches sprouting low on the trunk, and woodpeckers pulling at bark.
- Consider preventive treatments if your property is within 15 miles of a known infestation.
- Consider planting different species of trees that are not susceptible to EAB.
- Call a professional arborist, and visit emeraldashborer.wi.gov for detailed information.

The quarantine will be put in place temporarily by a Wisconsin emergency rule, until the U.S. Department of Agriculture completes the process to enact a federal quarantine.

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EAB – ADD ONE

Emerald ash borer is native to China and probably entered the United States on packing material, showing up first in Michigan about 10 years ago. It was first found in Wisconsin in 2008 in Ozaukee County. Other quarantined Wisconsin counties are Adams, Brown, Buffalo, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago.

EAB adults lay eggs on the bark of ash trees in mid- to late summer. When the eggs hatch a week or two later, the larvae burrow under the bark for the winter and feed, forming the characteristic S-shaped tunnels and destroying the tree's ability to take up nutrients and water. In summer, the adults emerge through D-shaped holes in the bark.

The Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program includes DATCP; DNR; UW-Madison; UW-Extension; USDA Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. ###

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