

ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT



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Arkansas State Plant Board Confirms Emerald Ash Borer in Lafayette and Hempstead Counties

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. – Hempstead and Lafayette Counties have been added to confirmed sites of the emerald ash borer (EAB) - an invasive beetle that feeds on and kills ash trees. Since the first Arkansas detection in 2014, EAB is confirmed in the following 14 counties: Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Lafayette, Nevada, Ouachita, Randolph, Saline, and Union.

An EAB quarantine was established in September of 2014 and expanded in October of 2016 by the Arkansas State Plant Board. The 33-county area included in the quarantine encompasses counties with confirmed EAB sites, as well as buffer counties around those areas. Lafayette and Hempstead County are already inside currently quarantined areas as buffer counties. This change in total confirmed sites of EAB will not affect the size of the quarantined area; the current EAB quarantine will remain the same.

The goal of the current federal EAB quarantine is to limit the spread of EAB caused by long-distance movement of ash by humans. See the 33-county area affected by the EAB quarantine here: <http://forestry.arkansas.gov/Services/ManageYourForests/Documents/Updated%20EAB%20Quarantine%20Map,%20Nov%2010.pdf>

Quarantined items (which cannot be transported outside of the quarantine area) include firewood of all hardwood species, and the following ash items: nursery stock; green lumber with bark attached; other material living, dead, cut or fallen including logs, pulpwood, stumps, roots, branches, mulch and composted/un-composted chips (1 inch or greater). Firewood is the only quarantined item that relates to all hardwood; all other quarantined items are relative to ash, only. Find comprehensive EAB quarantine regulations at the Arkansas State Plant Board website, here:

<http://plantboard.arkansas.gov/PlantIndustry/Documents/EAB%20Emergency%20Quarantine.pdf>

The EAB is a small beetle (1/2 inch in size) that originated in Asia. The first EAB discovery took place in Michigan, over a decade ago. EAB infestation usually kills the ash host within 2-5 years of infestation.

For further quarantine details, contact the Arkansas State Plant Board at 501-225-1598 or email eab@aspb.ar.gov.

The mission of the Arkansas State Plant Board is to protect and serve the citizens of Arkansas and the agricultural and business communities by providing information and unbiased enforcement of laws and regulations thus ensuring quality products and services.