

Facts About Ohio's 2009 Emerald Ash Borer Trapping Program

Ohio Department of Agriculture officials will begin in March placing manufactured traps across Ohio for a second year to detect the emerald ash borer, an exotic beetle responsible for killing thousands of ash trees. Researchers developed a purple trap and lure that attracts adult emerald ash borers in the vicinity. State and federal officials are using these traps across the country.

Department officials will conduct two types of surveys by placing nearly 5,000 traps in or near ash trees in parts of Ohio where the insect has not yet been detected. One survey will place traps roughly 1.5 miles apart, focusing primarily on the southeast corner of the state. The second survey will focus on "high risk" areas determined by USDA guidelines in the remaining non-quarantined counties. The traps will be set before emerald ash borer adults begin to emerge in spring.

Purple Trap Particulars:

- The purple, triangular traps will be constructed with three corrugated plastic sides, roughly 1-foot wide by 2-feet tall.
- The outside of the traps will be coated with glue and will be hung in or near ash trees.
- The traps will contain a lure, making them more attractive to EAB adult beetles.
- The traps will be set before EAB adults begin to emerge in southern Ohio in late April and in northern Ohio in mid-May.
- The traps will be checked and glue may be re-applied in mid-summer.
- The traps will be removed in the fall for inspection, once adult beetles are no longer flying.
- Traps pose no risk to humans, domestic pets, or wildlife.

If a suspect beetle is found on a trap, it will be sent to a USDA lab for identification. Counties with new finds will be quarantined to regulate the movement of ash trees, parts of an ash tree, and all hardwood firewood out of the county in an effort to stop the spread of the emerald ash borer through infested materials.

Citizens and municipalities are encouraged to assist in detection and education by allowing trap placement on their property. Those interested in participating can contact the department for more information at 1-888-OHIO-EAB or eab@agri.ohio.gov. Additional information on the program, including quarantine information, is available online at www.agri.ohio.gov.

