



Governor Ted Strickland
Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher
Director Robert J. Boggs

Office of Communication
8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 614-752-9817 • Fax: 614-466-7754
www.agri.ohio.gov • communications@agri.ohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio's Emerald Ash Borer Trapping Program to Begin in March

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (March 2, 2009) – 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.

The purple, triangular traps are constructed with three corrugated plastic sides, roughly one-foot wide by two-feet tall. The outside of the traps are coated with glue and hung in or near ash trees. Traps will be removed in the fall for inspection, following the flight season. The 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.

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Media Contact: Kaleigh Frazier, Public Information Officer, 614-728-6211

