



Department of
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ADDS BUTLER COUNTY TO THOUSAND
CANKERS DISEASE QUARANTINE**

State taking measures to protect Ohio's walnut trees

REYNOLDSBURG, OH (Dec. 19, 2013) – In an effort to protect the trees of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has added Butler County to the state's Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) quarantine regulating the transportation of walnut tree products and firewood. The quarantine in Butler County goes into effect Dec. 26.

TCD primarily affects black walnut trees, as well as other species of walnut, and is caused by a fungus transported by the walnut twig beetle. The walnut twig beetle spreads the fungus when it bores into the branches and trunk tissue of walnut trees, which are killed by repeated infections by the fungus. There is no known treatment for TCD. The disease was first found in Colorado in 2003 and has since been detected in 13 other states. In 2012 ODA enacted an exterior state quarantine regulating the transportation of walnut products from areas of the affected states.

The quarantine prohibits anyone from removing regulated materials from Butler County. Regulated materials include walnut nursery stock, unprocessed walnut lumber, or any other walnut material, such as logs, stumps, roots, branches, mulch, wood chips, and any firewood.

The quarantine does not apply to nuts, nut meats, hulls, processed lumber (bark-free and kiln-dried) and finished wood products without bark, such as walnut furniture, instruments and gun stocks.

Landowners and homeowners are strongly encouraged to watch for signs of TCD on their walnut trees. Symptoms of TCD vary, but commonly include thinning crowns, yellowing or wilted leaves in the crown and limbs that died recently.

Individuals who have questions regarding the quarantine or see any suspicious signs on their walnut trees are encouraged to contact ODA at 614-728-6270 or by email at plantpest@agri.ohio.gov.

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