

 **NOTICE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
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**USDA ADOPTS FINAL RULE RESTRICTING ASH PLANT IMPORTS TO PROTECT
AGAINST THE EMERALD ASH BORER**

December 17, 2008

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adopting as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that amended the regulations governing the importation of nursery stock to prohibit or restrict the importation of ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) plants for planting, except seed, from all foreign countries except for certain areas in Canada that are not regulated areas for emerald ash borer. The interim rule was necessary to prevent further introductions of emerald ash borer into the United States and to prevent the artificial spread of this destructive plant pest.

This final rule was effective Sept. 23 and is scheduled to be published in the Dec. 18 *Federal Register*.

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Note to Reporters: Public notices and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS news release page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information about this topic contact Cindy Ragin at (301) 734-7280 or by e-mail at cindy.n.ragin@aphis.usda.gov.