Michigan
Emerald Ash Borer Response Project

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan State University
U.S. Department of Agriculture

MDA EAB Program Strategies for 2009
Supplement to the
Emerald Ash Borer Michigan Response Strategy
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In the continuing response to the presence of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Michigan, the following strategy document has been developed as an addendum to the EAB Michigan Response Strategy in recognition of the current status of the beetle in Michigan, and the development of program options and strategies that were not available in the past.

I. SURVEY

A. Evaluate results from the 2008 Detection Tree Program.

B. Maintain a comprehensive survey plan for the Upper Peninsula to include high density artificial traps in the four counties adjacent to Wisconsin and also the southern area of Ontonagon County in the spring/summer of 2009 to meet the requirements of the national EAB trapping program as well as increased survey in high-risk areas of the Upper Peninsula.

C. Maintain a limited Detection Tree Program in Mackinac County in support of the Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM) pilot project.

D. Maintain artificial trap survey protocol around eradication areas to evaluate success of removal action.

E. In the Upper Peninsula, where EAB is present, continue efforts to delimit, quarantine, and suppress/mitigate infestations.

II. REGULATORY

A. Maintain regulatory compliance agreements with regulated industries for the movement of regulated articles both interstate and intrastate

B. Maintain random firewood blitzes along targeted Michigan thoroughfares in the Upper Peninsula to help ensure infested materials are not being moved illegally.

C. Maintain enforcement on the movement of regulated materials through the mandatory Inspection Station at the Mackinac Bridge

D. Maintain enforcement on the movement of regulated materials by non-regulated industries and the public through the use of random firewood blitzes and inspections at Ferry locations in Muskegon and Ludington.

III. RESPONSE ACTIVITIES BY AREA

A. UPPER PENINSULA

1. Maintain eradication objectives when feasible.

2. Identify and support suppression/mitigation activities that will slow the rate of ash mortality in the infested areas.

3. Where EAB is present, continue efforts to delimit, quarantine and suppress/mitigate infestations. Tree removal and mitigation activities may be multi-year efforts due to the time of year discovered and environmental restrictions present. These efforts may include but are not limited to phloem reduction strategies, insecticide applications, increased number of detection trees and traps, and other mitigation strategies.

4. Allow for, and encourage voluntary tree removal activities and value added opportunities for woodlot trees.

5. Allow for, and support voluntary actions of residents, municipal foresters, etc. to apply insecticides in these areas to assist in the control of EAB.

6. Collaborate with DNR, Forest Service, local road commissions, municipalities, and private landowners to develop an ash reduction management plan to harvest ash and manage forest areas to favor alternate species.

7. Support development of value added activities and businesses utilizing ash materials to help build markets to digest ash that is removed due to EAB.

8. Where EAB has not been detected, support voluntary reduction of the ash resource and encourage wood utilization opportunities.

B. LOWER PENINSULA QUARANTINED AREAS

1. Allow for, and support voluntary actions of residents, municipal foresters, etc. to apply insecticides in these areas to assist in the control of EAB.

2. Allow for, and encourage voluntary tree removal activities and value added opportunities for woodlot trees.

3. Collaborate with DNR, Forest Service and private landowners to develop ash reduction management plans to harvest ash and manage forest areas to favor alternate species.

4. Support development of value added activities and businesses utilizing ash materials to help build markets to digest ash that is removed due to EAB.

IV. DISPOSAL

A. Encourage market development of wood utilization in Michigan.

B. Provide opportunities for landowners, communities, and tree maintenance companies to properly and safely dispose of their dead and dying ash trees through disposal sites.

C. Encourage additional disposal sites throughout the Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula to prevent further spread of EAB.

D. Dispose of infested or at-risk ash trees removed from outlier eradication and containment sites.

V. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

A. Continue to involve EAB Communications representatives and trade and industry organizations in the distribution of program related information (brochures, trade journals, television, billboards, press releases, etc).

B. Maintain the current “Don’t Move Firewood” message and expand the message to include other invasive species affected by the movement of firewood.

C. Continue outreach and education system of public meetings and direct mailings for areas where EAB has been identified.

D. Maintain and enhance a comprehensive EAB website for citizens and stakeholders.

E. Implement a communications strategy based on thorough analysis of demographics, reach and various tools and mediums to help raise awareness of EAB and the importance of the quarantine.

VI. RESTORATION

A. Support the continuation of the ROOTs (Restoration of our Trees) program and its development to assist communities with the cost share of canopy replacement in Michigan. Continue to develop the program with DNR and other partners with a goal of providing suitable low cost trees to landowners and communities impacted by EAB.

B. Continue to support restoration grants to communities affected by the removal of ash trees in response areas.

VII. RESEARCH

A. Increase methods development activities to provide wide area detection, control and eradication tools and techniques in support of the EAB program.

B. Support continued release of approved biological control organisms.