

Emerald Ash Borer Symposium

Increasing State and Local Capacity to Eradicate Emerald Ash Borer

The Challenge

The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is a non-native insect from Asia that threatens the forests of North America. EAB was discovered in the Detroit metropolitan area and in Ontario, Canada, during the summer of 2002. In North America, EAB attacks only ash trees. So far, millions of ash trees have been killed in Michigan where the infestation is the most widespread. Smaller spot infestations exist in Ohio and Indiana.

Eradication and containment activities are currently underway in an effort to stop the spread of the emerald ash borer. It is critical to this effort that infestations spread by firewood or nursery stock are detected early. In order to do this, resource managers in uninfested areas must be familiar with signs and symptoms of EAB.

The Solution

In 2003 a committee was formed in Michigan made up of federal, state, and local resource managers, city foresters, landscape architects, local officials, as well as nonprofit and university representatives. This team identified the need to develop a forum that would assist resource managers either prepare for EAB or cope with an infestation. On behalf of the team, The Greening of Detroit, a non-profit tree planting organization, was awarded a Midwest Technology Transfer grant to hold the first annual Midwest Emerald Ash Borer Symposium. The Symposium was held in October of 2004 and drew over 200 participants from 20 states and Canada.

Resulting Benefits

The symposium offered valuable opportunities for building relationships, information sharing, and strengthening interagency partnerships. Ample time was built into the program for networking. Educational

The Midwest Emerald Ash Borer Symposium provided the tools needed by resource managers to help protect America's 7.5 billion ash trees.

MIDWEST EMERALD ASH BORER SYMPOSIUM

Know What to Do. Be Prepared.



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Symposiums and conferences are a great way to share information and technology among resource managers.

sessions were geared toward preparedness and managing infestations. Topic areas included methods of early detection, wood utilization, agency coordination, tree diversity, and EAB research updates. Additionally, a tour of EAB damage was provided as well as a portable sawmill demonstration. Participants left with the tools they need to better manage the threat and reality of this destructive insect.

Sharing Success

In order to share the valuable information provided at the symposium, a compendium of the speakers' abstracts and presentations will be available spring of 2005. For a CD copy please contact The Greening of Detroit at info@greeningofdetroit.com or call (313) 237-8733.



USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

For more information, contact:

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
Phone: 610-557-4103
E-mail: kmaloney@fs.fed.us

Michael W. Prouty, Field Rep.
1992 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: 651-649-5276
E-mail: mprouty@fs.fed.us