

Press Release:

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**EMERALD ASH BORER DISCOVERED IN JACKSON AND CLAYTON COUNTIES,
IOWA**

Tree-killing pest spreads to forty-one Iowa counties

DES MOINES – Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a highly destructive insect that attacks and kills ash trees, has been confirmed in Bellevue and Marquette. Native to Asia, EAB is responsible for the death of tens of millions of ash trees nationwide.

The Bellevue discovery in Jackson County came after city staff alerted state officials of an ash tree that was displaying symptoms of an EAB attack. For Marquette in Clayton County, a member of the Iowa EAB Team noticed the tree while in the area. In both cases further investigation led to the collection of insect specimens that were later positively identified as EAB.

The adult emerald ash borer is a metallic green beetle measuring approximately one-half inch long and one-eighth inch wide making it a challenge to detect in the landscape. The female beetles lay eggs on the bark of ash trees. The eggs hatch and the larvae bore underneath the bark, inhibiting the trees ability to transfer water and nutrients. Trees attacked by EAB usually die within two to four years.

EAB-infested ash trees display canopy dieback beginning at the top of the tree and progressing downwards, S-shaped feeding galleries under dead or splitting bark, D-shaped exit holes, water sprouts (along the trunk and main branches), and increased bark damage by woodpeckers.

“Increased woodpecker damage is what brought awareness to these recent finds,” said Mike Kintner, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship EAB and gypsy moth coordinator. “Whether it is during the dormant or growing season, evidence of an EAB attack can be noticed throughout the calendar year.”

Jackson and Clayton Counties will join 39 other Iowa counties where this exotic insect has been detected. Nationally, EAB has spread to 29 states since being discovered in Michigan in 2002. Firewood is a vehicle for the “human-assisted” movement of EAB and other tree-killing pests. Use locally sourced firewood whether burning it at home or when travelling so that injurious pests are not unknowingly spread.

Anyone who suspects an infested ash tree in a county not known to have EAB should contact a member of the Iowa EAB Team. Members include officials from Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service and the USDA Forest Service.

At this calendar date, the window for all preventive treatments has closed. If a landowner is interested in protecting a valuable and healthy ash tree within 15 miles of a known infestation, he or she should have landscape and tree service companies bid on work, review the bids, and treat beginning spring 2017 (after mid- April).

For more information about EAB and other pests threatening trees across Iowa, visit www.IowaTreePests.com. Or, for more information contact any of the following members of the Iowa EAB Team:

- Mike Kintner, IDALS EAB coordinator, 515-745-2877, Mike.Kintner@IowaAgriculture.gov
- Robin Pruisner, IDALS state entomologist, 515-725-1470, Robin.Pruisner@IowaAgriculture.gov
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