



Recommendations to Reduce Spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Potentially-Infested Ash Wood

Purpose

These recommendations were developed to help reduce the spread of emerald ash borer (EAB) in potentially-infested wood, particularly within the EAB quarantine. While movement of ash wood and wood products is legal within the quarantined area, EAB spreads slowly on its own and there are many communities and areas within the quarantine where this pest is not yet present. If you have to take down dead or dying ash trees within the quarantined area, you should consider that the wood may be infested and thus poses a risk of introducing EAB into a new location. As part of a good neighbor/good business policy, you can significantly reduce the risk of your wood being the source of a new infestation by following these recommendations.

Scope

These recommendations are voluntary and do not satisfy quarantine regulations for ash wood leaving the quarantined area. **These recommendations do not eliminate or take the place of any existing quarantine rules or regulations.** For more information on requirements for wood leaving the quarantine, read *Guidelines for Complying with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) State and Federal Quarantine Regulations*.

Biology Underlying these Recommendations

EAB adults can emerge from infested wood anytime between May 1 and Sept 30 to mate and lay eggs. For this reason, it is important to ensure that fresh and infested ash wood is not left at un-infested sites during this period to prevent the spread of EAB.

Ash Firewood

Keep ash firewood within 10 miles of where the tree was felled and within the quarantine until two years have passed. It is best to season the wood near where the tree was cut as EAB may emerge from the firewood the following spring. After two years of aging, EAB that may have been within the wood will have emerged or died. Aged firewood poses little risk of introducing EAB, and you may move it freely within the limits of the quarantine.

Only hardwood firewood certified by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) or USDA may move out of the quarantine. Hardwood firewood from outside the quarantine may enter an area quarantined for EAB but may not leave the quarantined area once it has entered.

Ash Woodchips

Ash woodchips may move freely within the EAB quarantined area. Chipping infested wood kills many of the EAB within it and those that survive the chipper may not be able to complete their growth before the chip dries out or the larva runs out of food.

- Woodchips staying within the quarantined area may be larger than 1 inch on two sides. The requirement that chips be less than 1 inch on two sides applies only to chips leaving the quarantined area.
- If chipping wood between May 1 and Sept. 30, chip the wood at the site where the tree was taken down or at a local staging area to prevent adult EAB emerging from the wood at an un-infested site prior to its being chipped.
- If the wood is being chipped between Oct. 1 and April 30, the wood may be moved within the quarantined area prior to chipping.
- Before moving equipment that has been used to chip ash, clean out woody debris to minimize risk of transporting un-chipped, infested wood.

Ash Wood Debris: Limbs, Roots, Slabs or Other Unprocessed Ash Wood

Keep ash wood debris within 15 miles of where it originated and within the quarantined area. It is best if ash debris is chipped. Ash debris may not leave the quarantined area unless under a compliance agreement with NDA or USDA.

Tree care professionals: between May 1 and Sept. 30, if faced with a partial load of wood at the end of the day, consider the likelihood it is infested with EAB when deciding whether to leave or move the load. If the load includes ash with signs it is infested with EAB, it is important that it not be moved to and left at an un-infested site where adult EAB could emerge to start a new infestation prior to chipping or processing.

Ash Logs

- Ash logs may be sold to mills outside of the quarantined area if the receiving mill has a EAB Compliance Agreement with NDA or USDA and the wood is moved out of the quarantine only between Oct. 1 and March 31, then processed and the debris destroyed by April 30.
- Within the quarantined area,
 - o move ash logs between Oct. 1 and March 31, process them and destroy debris (via chipping, burning, composting, etc.) by April 30
 - or
 - o process wood within 10 miles of where it was cut. If moving logs between May 1 and Sept. 30, process the wood and destroy the debris as soon as possible.

Ash Storage Sites/Staging Areas/Marshaling Yards

No NDA or USDA permit is needed to collect ash wood at a site within the EAB quarantined area for processing, staging, containment or other purposes.

Contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at (402) 471-2351 or agr.plant@nebraska.gov for more information on EAB Quarantine requirements.