

Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program Strategies – 2014*02/27/14

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This document serves to summarize statewide program strategies, identify priorities, guide work planning, document planned program activities and inform interested parties (*e.g.* legislature, media, partners, stakeholders). Activities and strategies included in this document are high priority items for the Wisconsin Cooperative EAB Program in 2014.

The Cooperative EAB Program highlights the following strategies incorporated into this document:

- DNR Forest Health will implement operational biocontrol releases in targeted Wisconsin populations of EAB.
- DATCP and DNR will jointly facilitate the promotion of certified firewood using experience of the public with certified wood offered for sale at state campgrounds.
- UW-Extension will continue to develop a First Detector program to contribute to detection of EAB in coming years.

EAB Program Goals – 2014

- Maintain a detection program as part of the national EAB survey, prioritizing efforts in areas considered high risk for introduction and establishment of EAB.
- Reduce the impact and spread of EAB in infested areas.
- Pursue funding and partnerships to facilitate response activities.
- Provide outreach and education on prevention, preparedness and response options.

These goals will be pursued on a statewide basis through strategic planning and the implementation of actions in the following seven program areas:

1. EAB and Ash Management
2. Survey
3. Regulation
4. Communication & Outreach
5. Utilization & Material Management
6. Funding
7. Research

EAB and Ash Management:

- As biocontrol agents become available, DNR Forest Health will implement operational releases where appropriate, based on identified Wisconsin populations of EAB.
- Promote the use of “Recommended Practices” for industry, local governments and private landowners to reduce ash movement and EAB spread within existing quarantine zones.
- Promote the development and implementation of EAB readiness and response plans in Wisconsin communities.

Survey:

- Continue cooperative partnerships among agencies and stakeholders to maintain the national and high-risk EAB survey of uninfested counties.
- Maintain EAB Hotline and incorporate the development of a First Detector program with partner agencies to train concerned citizens to report insect and disease problems.

Regulation:

- Provide guidance to affected businesses that clarifies quarantine regulations and assists with compliance.
- Promote certified firewood.
- APHIS, DATCP and DNR will coordinate regulatory work, State EAB quarantine enforcement efforts and interstate and intrastate regulatory activities.

Communication and Outreach:

- Use communication and education tools to facilitate connections between markets and suppliers. This will help increase existing and encourage new wood utilization business opportunities.
- Educate municipal administrators e.g. village presidents, administrators, mayors and their councilmembers, through their organization, periodicals, conferences and workshops, the message of implementing pro-active ash management immediately.
- Educate visitors at state campgrounds that provide wood from certified vendors about the benefits of using treated firewood.
- Use information gathered in camper surveys to improve and target education efforts.

Utilization and Material Management:

- Use information gathered in survey of campers to determine actions needed to remove impediments to the public using local or certified firewood.
- Work closely with affected communities and industries to provide tested utilization options and assist with regulatory compliance.

Funding:

- Continue to pursue funding from USDA-APHIS, US Forest Service, the State of Wisconsin and from other sources such as the Farm Bill, for trapping and monitoring of EAB, readiness planning, management, reforestation, site restoration and other EAB mitigation efforts.

- Continue to advocate for federal funding for accelerated research on detection and survey tools, management and control options.
- Continue to emphasize EAB planning and management in DNR's Urban Forestry Grant program.

Research:

- Survey campers at state properties to evaluate the effect of outreach activity on firewood consumers' behavior and experience with certified firewood, including a list of key stakeholders.
- Evaluate the establishment of current EAB biocontrol agents.
- Survey municipalities on wood utilization strategies currently being employed in Wisconsin. Use this information to promote the highest value, best use of the ash trees being removed by communities in response to EAB.
- Identify the information needs of those tasked with EAB preparedness and management; what additional information do they need.