

Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week, May 21-27, 2017

May 22, 2017

In recognition of the continuing emerald ash borer problem, New Hampshire Governor Christopher Sununu declared May 21-27 Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week. The [proclamation](#) encourages all citizens, landowners and municipalities to learn more about emerald ash borer and develop and implement emerald ash borer preparedness plans.

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an invasive beetle that attacks and kills true ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) within three to five years of infestation. The insect has been found in 32 towns in New Hampshire since 2013 and the list keeps growing. Four New Hampshire counties (Belknap, Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Rockingham) are under quarantine for the movement of ash products.

“We need everyone’s help to find new infestations and slow the spread of emerald ash borer in New Hampshire,” Piera Siegert, state entomologist with the N.H. Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, said. “The impacts of an emerald ash borer infestation to communities, nurseries, and wood products industries are reduced when emerald ash borer is detected early, and the human-assisted spread of infested materials is limited.”

Look for it

UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry Specialist Karen Bennett added, “Officials are on the lookout for emerald ash borer, but they need the help of all citizens. Signs that everyone can look for include blanding of the bark and lots of woodpecker activity on ash trees.”

She went on to say that blanding occurs when woodpeckers forage for insects beneath the bark and chip away the top bark layer, creating a lighter color than the surrounding bark. This sign is most evident before leaves fully emerge, so now is the best time to look for it. Citizens can report tree damage or suspicious insects to www.NHBugs.org.

Treat it

Homeowners who want to save their high-value ash trees should pay close attention to the map of emerald ash borer infested areas, found at www.NHBugs.org. When an infested area is within 10 miles of their property, homeowners can consider treating their trees with insecticides. A list of fully-licensed pesticide applicators is available at www.NHBugs.org/applicators.

Don’t move firewood

Residents also are encouraged to buy firewood from a local supplier and burn it in the same area where you buy it. Most importantly, don’t move firewood from the four quarantined counties to other areas of the state. Before leaving for a camping trip, check www.FirewoodScout.org for firewood dealers near where you’ll be camping.

Brad Simpkins, state forester with the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, says, “We want to remind our in-state and out-of-state campers we have a firewood quarantine. We inform campers using state campgrounds about quarantines prior to their arrival to ensure greater compliance with the quarantine.”

Citizens can learn more about emerald ash borer and other invasive forest pests, and can report suspected insects or infested trees at www.nhbugs.org—the primary source for information on invasive forest insects in New Hampshire, featuring pictures of the telltale signs of emerald ash borer, including blanding.