

INSIDE GRUNDY COUNTY
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The emerald ash borer (EAB) was recently discovered near Victory, Wisconsin which is just across the Mississippi River from the Iowa – Minnesota border. The movement of the EAB has been monitored since its discovery in Michigan several years ago. The following information came from an article written by Laura Jesse and Mark Shour, ISU Extension, and Robin Pruisner, State Entomologist, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

The emerald ash borer is a small, invasive beetle, whose larvae tunnel under the bark, killing ash trees. With the discovery of an EAB infestation within sight of Iowa, there is a great deal of concern about what this means for ash trees in Iowa. First, ongoing surveys show no EAB infestations have been found in Iowa, including tree inspections in Allamakee County across from Victory, Wisconsin.

The Victory infestation was reported by a citizen who phoned the Wisconsin EAB hotline on March 30, 2009, reporting dead/dying ash in the area. A County Forester looked at the trees, took pictures and forwarded them to state officials. State officials visited the site on April 3, found larvae and sent them to a federal identifier. Positive confirmation was made Monday, April 6, 2009.

Vernon County becomes the fifth infested county in Wisconsin. Crawford County has also been quarantined because of close proximity to the Victory infestation. EAB was discovered in Ozaukee and Washington counties last summer (2008); adjacent Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties were also quarantined.

USDA and other officials have visually assessed trees in high risk areas in Allamakee County and cut down and peeled the bark of suspect trees. DNR estimates there are up to five million ash trees in Allamakee County, comprising about five percent of the trees in the forested areas of the county.

The impact of EAB will be devastating. The cost of removing and replacing destroyed trees will be financially taxing, and the loss of such a large amount of trees will cause a severe environmental impact as well. There are approximately 88 million ash trees in Iowa, many of them in cities and neighborhoods. Loss of these ash trees may very well increase heating, cooling, and watering costs for residential areas. Iowa estimates the cost from EAB will exceed \$7.5 billion to remove dead trees and another \$5 billion to replant.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa State University Extension, in cooperation with USDA-APHIS and USDA Forest Service, have been working together for several years surveying Iowa for EAB using visual assessments, purple sticky traps and sentinel trees. To date none of

these EAB survey tools has indicated any infestation within Iowa. State and federal officials are now planning the survey for the coming summer. Iowa State University Extension has begun work on control recommendations specific to Iowa home and landowners. However, no treatments are recommended in Iowa at this time.

For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer, call the Grundy Office of ISU Extension at 319-824-6979.