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FOREST HEALTH ALERT!
Emerald Ash Borer and Regulated Ash
December 13, 2013

Emerald ash borer is a destructive insect from Asia that has the potential to eliminate ash as a functioning part of our forests and landscapes. It was probably introduced to North America in the early 1990's, and in the time since, human-aided spread has brought it rapidly from the U.S. heartland to New England.

Although this insect has not yet been confirmed in Maine, detections of emerald ash borer are getting closer and closer to our borders. Last spring, the insect was found along the Merrimack River in Concord, NH. This has resulted in regulation of Merrimack County in New Hampshire. In November, it was found in North Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts. It is unclear at this time what impact that detection—within 10 miles of the New Hampshire border—will have on the regulated area, except that more ash from close to our borders has serious risk of carrying the pest, and will be regulated. You can find more information about where emerald ash borer has been confirmed under *Quarantine Information* here: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/

There is increasing risk that material regulated for emerald ash borer may enter supply chains for Maine mills. Our counterparts in New Hampshire have alerted us that there have been some inquiries from suppliers about moving ash products from the new emerald ash borer quarantine area to receivers in Maine.

Beyond Maine Forest Service concerns about the possibility of such shipments introducing emerald ash borer into Maine before it might otherwise become established, movement of ash from such areas is federally regulated. Receipt of regulated ash requires a special federal compliance agreement.

Such a compliance agreement can provide opportunity for limited, seasonally constrained, receipt of ash from quarantined areas. You can find more information about compliance agreement requirements here: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/regulatory.shtml.

If you have questions about the agreements, contact our State Plant Health Director's office (USDA APHIS, PPQ) at: (207) 848-0001. Also, please do not hesitate to contact the Maine Forest Service with questions: allison.m.kanoti@maine.gov or (207) 287-3147.

To stay abreast of new developments with emerald ash borer and other forest health issues, please consider subscribing to our Conditions Reports updates. Encourage anyone involved in wood procurement to do the same. A sign-up sheet is enclosed; an on-line subscription option is available here: http://maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/condition_rpt_signup.html.

Thank you for your help in delaying the impact of this pest on our ash resource.

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