



## Emerald Ash Borer Found in Iowa Along Banks of the Mississippi River in Allamakee County

### *Invasive Pest Kills Ash Trees, Iowans Asked to Not Move Firewood*

The Iowa Emerald Ash Borer Team has confirmed that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive pest that kills ash trees, has been found in Iowa along the Mississippi River two miles south of the Minnesota border in Allamakee County. The land is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This is the first confirmed EAB infestation in Iowa.

Four EAB larvae were found in one ash tree by members of Iowa's EAB team during a survey of the area following the recent announcement that the beetle had been found just across the Minnesota border. An infestation in nearby Victory, Wisconsin was discovered in 2009.

A quarantine prohibiting the movement of firewood, ash nursery stock, ash timber, or any other article that could further spread EAB is pending from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. A federal quarantine would follow the state quarantine.

This year EAB team members are in the process of placing 1800 purple traps at high-risk areas in the state, including in a 1.5 mile grid along the Mississippi River. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources also has 412 trap trees in the state this year, 12 of which are in Allamakee County.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is native to eastern Asia, and was detected in the United States near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. EAB kills all ash (*Fraxinus*) species by larval burrowing under the bark and eating the actively growing layers.

The metallic-green adult beetles are a half inch long, and are active from late-May to early-August in Iowa. Signs of EAB infestation include one-eighth inch D-shaped exit holes in ash tree bark and serpentine tunnels packed with sawdust under the bark. Tree symptoms of an infestation include crown thinning and dieback when first noticed, epicormic sprouting as insect damage progresses, and woodpecker feeding.



EAB has killed ash trees of various sizes in neighborhoods and woodlands throughout the Midwest. Ash is one of the most abundant native tree species in North America, and has been heavily planted as a landscape tree in yards and other urban areas. According to recent sources, Iowa

has an estimated 58 million rural ash trees and approximately 30 million more ash trees in urban areas.

The movement of firewood throughout Iowa and to other states poses the greatest threat to quickly spread EAB even further. Areas currently infested are under federal and state quarantines, but unknowing campers or others who transport firewood can spark an outbreak. As a result, officials are asking Iowans to not move fire-

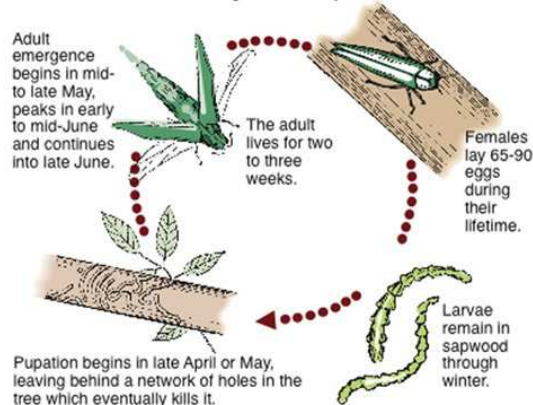
wood and instead buy wood where they are staying and burn it completely.

To learn more about EAB please visit the following websites:

- [www.IowaTreePests.com](http://www.IowaTreePests.com)
- [www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/eab/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/eab/index.html)
- [www.extension.iastate.edu/PME/EmeraldAshBorer.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/PME/EmeraldAshBorer.html)

### Life cycle of beetle deadly to trees

The emerald ash borer beetle, thought to have arrived from Asia more than a decade ago, kills every tree it attacks.



SOURCE: USDA Forest Service

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## ISU Extension Entomologists Offer Recommendations on Protecting Ash Trees

The recent discovery of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in north-eastern Iowa (Allamakee County) has increased interest in this exotic, invasive insect and what Iowans can do to protect ash trees (*Fraxinus* species) on their property. Iowa State University Extension is collaborating with Iowa state regulatory agencies and local officials to limit the spread of EAB into other areas of Iowa. For a full list of EAB detection and education activities, please visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html).

Treatment options to protect ash trees from this destructive pest are available, but careful and thoughtful analysis is needed to circumvent spread of false information and excessive and needless use of insecticides. Forest, horticulture and insect specialists with ISU Extension have developed a guide that outlines your management options against EAB.

The first step for many is confirming that you do have an ash tree. Only ash trees are susceptible to EAB attack; all species and varieties of ash trees are at risk. Second is determining if the ash tree is in vigorous health. Trees must be healthy and growing for treatments to be effective.

Compromised trees that have mechanical injuries, loose bark or thin canopy or are struggling to grow in poor sites with limited rooting area, compacted soil or other stresses are not worth

treating. If the tree is apparently healthy and is valuable in your landscape, then preventive treatment options may be considered.

Insecticide control measures against EAB should not be used unless you live within 15 miles of the confirmed EAB infestation. Based on the EAB announcement, the upper portion of Allamakee County is within this risk zone. However, due to the isolated incidence and associated remote terrain of the infested site, treatment in Iowa is still not recommended at this time.

Protecting ash trees with insecticides is a long-term commitment. Most treatments will need to be reapplied annually or twice per year for an interminable number of years to protect the tree. With that in mind, many would be ahead to remove and replace susceptible trees.

ISU Extension has a publication on the topic, PM 2084, "Emerald Ash Borer Management Options," released June 2009. The publication can be downloaded from the ISU Extension Online Store at [www.extension.iastate.edu/store](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store). The North Central Region IPM Center's "Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from EAB" was issued May 2009 and is available on the ISU emerald ash borer website [www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html).

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## USDA Announces Assistance Program for Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has said that orchardists and nursery tree growers can begin applying for benefits under the Tree Assistance Program, which was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. Signup began Monday, May 10, 2010, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices.

"This program helps our orchardists and nursery tree growers replant and get back on their feet after natural disasters," said Vilsack.

The Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides help to orchardists and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. The 2008 Farm Bill expanded eligibility to include Christmas tree and nursery tree growers that were ineligible under prior legislation. Trees grown for pulp or timber or not grown for commercial purposes are not eligible.

To be eligible for TAP, producers must have suffered more than a 15 percent death loss due to the natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70 percent of replant costs and 50 percent of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs for replacing or salvaging damaged trees.

Producers can receive assistance for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Producers must also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or for 2008, obtained a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through the buy-in provision. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

For more information on the new TAP program, please contact your county FSA office or the website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## Voice your Opinion and Volunteer for an INLA Committee

The Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association is seeking energetic professionals to volunteer for INLA committees. Working on an INLA committee is your chance to voice your opinion about the direction of your Association on everything from certification to convention planning.

**INLA is currently seeking volunteers for the following committees: Certification/ICNP, Events, and Membership Ser-**

**vices.** The three committees will be meeting on **July 14, 2010 at Reiman Gardens in Ames, Iowa.** The meetings will begin at 10:00 am with lunch being served at 11:30 a.m. for all in attendance.

A committee volunteer registration form is attached. Please call the INLA office at 515.262.8323 or 800.383.1682 with any questions you may have.

## Second Annual All-Horticulture Field Day to be held August 29, 2010

You are invited to the second annual All-Horticulture field day to be held at the Horticulture Research Station on August 29, 2010. This opportunity will showcase research projects being conducted at the station in all areas of horticulture. Concurrent sessions will allow you to learn more about specific areas of horticulture and to network with others in the "growing" horticulture industry.

Special areas of interest will highlight vegetable production, apple, grape, and small fruit production and wine tasting, lawn and turf management, urban tree development, landscape design and installation, organic horticulture, and farm pond and surface water management.

Pre-registration is \$20.00 for full day attendance, on-site registration is \$25. Look for further details and registration information to be coming out soon via e-mail and on the All-Horticulture Field Day website at:

[www.hort.iastate.edu/news/docs/2ndAllHortFieldDay.pdf](http://www.hort.iastate.edu/news/docs/2ndAllHortFieldDay.pdf)

### Topics to include

**Airblast Spraying:** Airblast sprayers offer an effective and economical means for applying fungicides, insecticides, growth regulators and foliar nutrients in orchards and vineyards. Compared to conventional sprayers, air blast systems allow growers to concentrate spray where less liquid is applied per acre, and at higher concentrations, less pesticide is needed to attain effective coverage. Dr. Paul Domoto will be explaining how this is accomplished, and an air blast sprayer will be demonstrated.

**Aquaculture/Fisheries:** Fish production and current research at the Aquatic Research Facility (ARF) with an emphasis on this year's Bluegill project.

**Computer Applications in Horticulture:** A hands-on session covering the latest in software development for the landscape industry. His presentation will include traditional computer applications as well as iPhone/iPod Touch/iPad applications.

**Crabapples:** Since 1985, the Iowa State University Department of Horticulture has participated in the National Crabapple Evaluation Program, and during this tour stop we will feature some of the best crabapples for the Iowa landscape. Join us as we traverse this impressive collection in search of that perfect crabapple.

**EarthKind Rose Trial:** EarthKind is an innovative new program that addresses environmental landscape management. We will discuss the northern EarthKind rose trial planted at the Horticulture Research Farm as well as the newly established EarthKind Hydrangea trial. These two plantings are part of the nationwide trialing program of rose and hydrangea cultivars being evaluated for their suitability for inclusion in EarthKind landscapes.

**High Tunnels:** High tunnels extend the growing season and produce greater yields of high quality fruits and vegetables. See both fruits and vegetables growing in different sized high tunnels.

**Orchard:** Influence of rootstocks and crop load ratios on 'Gibson Golden Delicious' apple yield, fruit quality and return bloom. Rootstocks and crop-load management are important factors that influence the profitability of apple orchards. The rootstock can influence tree vigor, precocity, sustained productivity, fruit size, and tree tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses. Crop load can affect fruit maturity, size and grade and return bloom in the subsequent year. Because modern high-density systems require careful selection of rootstocks and managing crop-loads to optimize yields and return on a relatively high investment, Dennis has undertaken this study to evaluate the performance of five dwarfing apple rootstocks subjected to under different cropping levels. Treatments are being monitored for differences in fruit growth rate, maturity, yield, fruit size and quality, and the ability to produce blossoms for next season's crop.

**Forestry:** Portable sawmill demonstration with an emphasis on saw safety followed by a demonstration of how maple syrup is made using a portable sugarhouse.

**Student Organic Farm:** The Student Organic Farm (SOF) demonstrates organic practices for vegetable and fruit production, including cover crops, trap crops, organic fertilization and mulches. New this year is a demonstration site for double-cropped organic vegetables in rotation with cover crops, and a description of integrating SOF crops into the ISU Dining Service

**Turf Demonstrations:** Will include information on lawn mower safety, maintenance, and selection. A walking tour to identify weeds, insects, diseases, and their control and a turf research plot tour.

**Vineyard:** Field day attendees will tour research vineyards that include wine grape cultivars, cropping and canopy management studies, and weed control and soil quality management projects. Iowa State University faculty and graduate students will provide tours and answer viticultural questions.

**Wine Lab:** The Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute will discuss wine grape harvest parameters and their importance to winemaking. The measurements of pH, Titratable Acidity, and Brix will be demonstrated.

# Immigration Reform and Iowa's Economy

The Iowa Immigration Education Coalition is hosting a series of events addressing immigration reform and its economic impact on Iowa's economy, Thursday, June 17.

These events include two educational opportunities to learn about the research and studies by two national experts on the economics of immigration reform. The late afternoon reception is a benefit fundraiser for the educational programs of the Iowa Immigration Education Coalition. More details are available at [www.iowaimmigrationeducation.org](http://www.iowaimmigrationeducation.org).

7:30 – 9:00 A.M. Business and Community Leaders Breakfast *Reservations:* [www.businessrecord.com](http://www.businessrecord.com)

5:30 – 7:00 P.M. Reception \$50. Davis Brown Law Firm, 215 10<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 1300, Des Moines. *RSVP by June 10:* [info@iowaimmigrationeducation.org](mailto:info@iowaimmigrationeducation.org) or 515-471-8058.

7:30 – 9:00 P.M. Public Forum *free*  
First Christian Church, 2500 University Avenue, Des Moines

Two nationally known experts will be presenting at a business and community leaders breakfast and a free public forum on the evening of June 17:

**Dan Griswold**, Director of the Center for Trade Policy Studies, Cato Institute. He has authored studies on immigration, globalization, and other international trade issues. His writings include the chapter, "Market-Based Solutions to Illegal Immigration," in the 2009 book, *Getting Immigration Right* (Potomac Press, Coates and Siavelis, eds.).

**Raul Hinojosa**, Professor, Founding Director of the North American Integration & Development Center and Associate Professor in the Division of Social Sciences and the Cesar E. Chavez Department at UCLA. He authored a 2010 study, *"Raising the Floor for American Workers: The Economic Benefits of Comprehensive Immigration Reform."*

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## A Feather in Every Pot

***"Plastics from petroleum often stay around a couple hundred years; so why do you want a plastic that you use for a year to last a couple hundred years, make no sense, match the product with the use."***

~Dr. Walter Schmidt, USDA-ARS scientist regarding the creation of a biodegradable horticultural nursery pot.

Since 2006, the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) in partnership with the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Institute (USDA-ARS) has led the way in producing a truly biodegradable plant container made from keratin (poultry feathers). Learn more about this project by watching Voice of America's recent interview with HRI researcher, Dr. Masud Huda, and USDA-ARS's Dr. Walter Schmidt at:

[www.anla.org/index.cfm?page=Content&categoryID=174&area=&ID=732](http://www.anla.org/index.cfm?page=Content&categoryID=174&area=&ID=732)

### Let's Reach Our Goal: A BIODEGRADABLE POT!

We are nearing the finish line! We have tested and found suitable resin formulations. We have filed a patent. We have begun test trials. In essence, we have completed more than 800 meters of our 1600 meter race.

HRI needs your help to cross the finish line with the creation of a commercially viable container. Help HRI test more pots, conduct more research trials and complete the necessary market research. Do your part: Donate or pledge a contribution to HRI today. Every dollar given allows HRI to leverage industry dollars with future partners and other research organizations.

Make your donation TODAY by going to:

[www.anla.org/docs/Publications/HRI%20Publications/HRIContributionForm.pdf](http://www.anla.org/docs/Publications/HRI%20Publications/HRIContributionForm.pdf)

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## Economic Analysis Concludes: Trees Mean Jobs

The proposed reauthorization of a national tree-planting program will produce an estimated economic impact of \$741 million over the next five years according to a recent study. In addition, the program would create a total employment impact of more than 6,000 jobs during those five years, generating more than \$87 million in revenue for federal, state and local governments at a time when municipal greening budgets continue to be cut.

The Small Business Environmental Stewardship Assistance Act (SBESA) is currently being considered in both chambers of the U.S. Congress. H.R. 4509, which would reauthorize the Small Business Administration's "National Small Business Tree Planting Program," was introduced by Rep. Kurt Schrader (OR) on January 26, 2010. A Senate companion bill was introduced on April 29, 2010 by Sen. Ron Wyden (OR). Between 1991 and 1994, more than 18,000 green industry firms were employed to plant more than 23 million trees across the country through the SBA program.

The report, released on May 13, 2010 by Dr. Alan Hodges of the University of Florida, joined by Dr. Charles Hall and Dr. Marco Palma at Texas A&M University, is entitled "Projected Economic Impacts of the Proposed Small Business Administration Tree Planting Program." The SBESA Act reauthorizes

the SBA National Tree Planting Program at \$50 million annually between fiscal years 2011 and 2015. The money supports planting trees around retail storefronts, rental housing unit and other public areas. This program also requires a 25 percent match for any grant under the program, including in-kind contributions such as the cost or value of providing care and maintenance for a period of three years after planting. This match ensures that both private and community investments are made for the installation and care of trees funded by this program.

"Thousands of small business jobs, millions of urban and community trees, tens of millions in local, state and federal tax revenue and hundreds of millions of dollars impacting our national economy," said Corey Connors, ANLA director of legislative relations. "With National Small Business Week coming up next week, consideration of the Small Business Environmental Stewardship Assistance Act sounds like a pretty good idea to our industry."

ANLA has launched a new web-based, grassroots campaign in support of the SBESA Act. Dr. Hodges, Dr. Hall and Dr. Palma's full report, as well as more information on H.R. 4509 and S. 3279, can be found at [www.treesmeanjobs.com](http://www.treesmeanjobs.com).

# Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers On-Farm Workshops Scheduled for June

Farmers are encouraged to mark their calendars and plan to attend a series of June "Doing things right" on-farm workshops sponsored by the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers. The workshops will be held June 11 (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.) at the Al Laubenthal farm (hoop-barn beef production) near Whittemore, June 16 (5:30-8:30 p.m.) at the Kevin Perrinjaquet farm (pork production) near Aurora and June 29 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) at the Ryan Reed farm (pork production) near Hedrick. There is no cost to attend.

Each event will showcase the Coalition's Green Farmstead Partner program offering farmers assistance in planting of trees and shrubs around new and existing cattle feedlots, hog and poultry barns. Experts will be on hand to discuss the program and other timely topics including market forecasts, regulations and on-farm energy efficiency.

The Green Farmstead Partner program is a joint effort of CSIF, Trees Forever and the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association. "It's another example of how farmers and the

environmental community are working together for stronger farms, neighborhoods and communities," Ritter says.

According to Iowa State University, VEBs can reduce potential odor transport from livestock buildings by as much as 15 percent. "Research also shows establishing a VEB is one of the highest-rated things a livestock farmer can do when it comes to neighbor relations," Ritter says. "It's visual evidence they are committed to doing things right by improving neighborhood aesthetics, enhancing soil and water quality, reducing on-farm energy use and creating more pleasant working environment."

For more information, contact CSIF at 800-932-2436 or go to: <http://www.supportfarmers.com/>. The Green Farmstead Partner program is supported financially by Alliant Energy, Farm Credit Services of America, Kent Feeds, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. and West Central Cooperative. Agendas for each workshop are below.

## June 11, 2010 Workshop

**11:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Al Lauberthal Farm  
1703 50th Avenue  
Whittemore, IA**

### Agenda

11 a.m. Lunch

12 p.m.-2 p.m. Program

Welcome: *Aaron Putze, Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers*

Benefits of Vegetative Buffers: *Matt Roelfs, Advanced Landscapes*

Variety Selection and Site Considerations: *Jordan and Ann Grimm, Green Gables Landscaping*

Agriculture Outlook and Strategy: *Ron Eichmeier, Emmetsburg Farm Credit*

Demonstration Tree Planting

## June 16, 2010 Workshop

**5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Kevin Perrinjaquet Farm  
16694 Highway 3  
Strawberry Point, IA**

### Agenda

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:15-8:30 p.m. Program

Welcome: *Lee Huntrods, Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers*

Farm Energy Checkup Program: *Dave Stineman, Consumer's Energy*

Benefits of Vegetative Buffers: *Roger Hunt, Trees Forever*

Variety Selection and Site Considerations: *Roger Hunt, Trees Forever*

Demonstration Tree Planting and Care

## June 29, 2010 Workshop

**10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Ryan Reed Farm  
17747 110th Avenue  
Ottumwa, IA**

### Agenda

10 a.m. Program

Welcome: *Megan Ritter, Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers*

Economic Outlook: *Justin Septer, Ottumwa Farm Credit*

Farm Energy Conservation: *Kent Mowrer, Alliant Energy*

Benefits of Vegetative Buffers: *Roger Hunt, Trees Forever*

Variety Selection and Site Considerations: *Roger Hunt, Trees Forever*

Demonstration Tree Planting and Care

12:30 p.m. Lunch