NEWS COLUMN: by Margaret Chamas, Extension Agent

**Save Your Ash! Emerald Ash Borer found in Doniphan County**

Earlier this month, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was officially confirmed in Doniphan County, near Bendena. Doniphan is the seventh Kansas county with EAB; we now are in a quarantine along with Atchison, Douglas, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte counties. This means a threat to some of our trees, and a change in how we citizens and some businesses operate.

**What are these insects and what do they do?**

The EAB damages ash trees both during its larval and adult stages. The larvae – white, segmented wormlike critters with brown heads – feed on the tissues of trees just below the bark, creating characteristic tunnels or “galleries” on the wood. This feeding disrupts the movement of nutrients and water up and down the tree, essentially starving it. The larvae turn into brilliant green beetle-like adults, which emerge from D-shaped holes in the bark during June and July. The adults then feed on ash tree leaves, further damaging the tree.

**How do I know if an ash tree has EABs?**

Symptoms of EAB damage to ash trees include:

* The canopy of the tree thins and leaves don’t grow, starting with the top third of the tree
* D-shaped exit holes on the bark where the adult EAB leaves the inside of the tree
* Galleries, or serpentine tracks or channels, on wood just underneath the bark
* New sprouts start growing from near the base of the tree’s trunk
* More woodpeckers (which love eating the larvae) are seen on the tree

Some great images can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2owEbvt>

**What does the quarantine mean for me?**

The quarantine means that certain things – “regulated articles” – cannot be moved out of the quarantine area unless inspected by APHIS. These regulated articles include the insects themselves; firewood from ANY hardwood; ash nursery stock, green lumber, or material (including roots, stumps, etc); and other items that may facilitate EAB spread. To move these things out of the quarantine area, a compliance agreement must be on file with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the wood either finely mulched/chipped finely or heat-treated.

**Should I treat my ash trees?**

Not necessarily! If you suspect that an ash tree has been infested by EAB, contact the Kansas Dept of Ag (785-564-6698) or Forest Service (785-532-3300). If treatment is recommended, May is one of the best months – before the adults emerge. See below and stay tuned for more information that may help.

**For more information:**

The Kansas Department of Ag, Kansas Forest Service, and K-State Research and Extension will be holding educational programs in the near future. Keep an eye on the Doniphan County Extension webpage (<http://www.doniphan.k-state.edu/>) and the paper for more info, or call Margaret at the office at 785-985-3623.

This Frequently Asked Questions page from the KDA gives a great primer on the EAB and what to do about it: <http://bit.ly/2p1sYEQ>

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