



Forest Health *Notes*



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Entire State under Quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer

BACKGROUND. The emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, is a non-native invasive insect that was first found in the U.S. near Detroit, MI in 2002. Through both natural dispersal and human-assisted movement in infested materials such as firewood, this beetle has now spread to many additional states. It was first found in North Carolina in 2013. The emerald ash borer has already killed tens of millions of ash trees in the U.S. and has the potential to eliminate the species from the landscape.



Figure 1. Adult EAB

In 2015, the emerald ash borer was found in 14 counties in North Carolina, bringing the total to 18 positive counties (see Table 1 on next page). The beetle was first found in four counties in 2013 and no new detections occurred in 2014. With the abundance and scattered distribution of the detections this year, the entire state of North Carolina was put under quarantine for the insect in September 2015 (detections and current quarantine shown in Figure 2). Previously, each infested county had been individually quarantined as it was found to be infested.

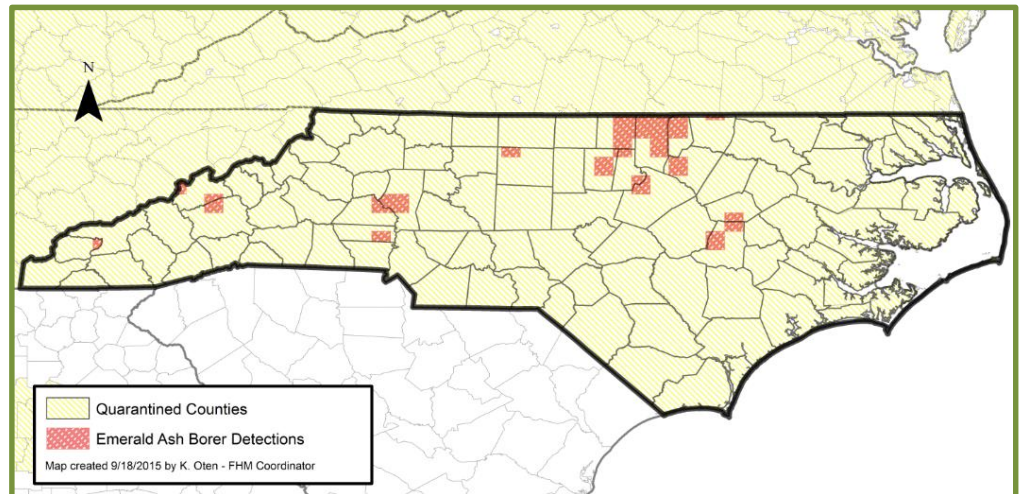


Figure 2. Emerald ash borer detections in North Carolina are shown in red; quarantined zones are in yellow. Map current as of September 2015.

Quarantine meaning. The quarantine prohibits the movement of any ash material, the insect itself, and all hardwood firewood (wood 4' in length or less) from

quarantined areas into non-quarantined areas. Because the entire state is now under quarantine, these regulated articles can move freely within the state. They may also move into the adjacent areas of eastern Tennessee and all of Virginia, but cannot move into South Carolina which is not under quarantine as of September 2015.

Quarantines are constantly changing, so check the [NCFS Forest Health emerald ash borer map](#) or the [national map](#) for updates. For additional information on the quarantine in N.C., visit [Plant Industry's emerald ash borer FAQ page](#).

Finding emerald ash borer. Methods of detecting the emerald ash borer vary. Emerald ash borer traps were placed statewide this year, and have historically captured many new county detections. Surveys by NCFS – Forest Health or NCDA&CS Plant Industry are regularly done and involve canvassing areas, searching for declining ash. Lastly, the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division’s *Cerceris* wasp program also played a role this year. This program monitors the prey captures of a ground-nesting wasp that provisions its nest with metallic wood-boring beetles. As the wasps return to their nest with beetles, researchers check to see if that beetle is an emerald ash borer or not. This program successfully detected emerald ash borer in Franklin County this year!

The search is not over! NCFS Forest Health staff will continue to monitor for the emerald ash borer. To report suspect emerald ash borer finds in new counties or grids (grids are based on the NCFS range map), call NCFS Forest Health staff, call 1-800-206-9333, or send an email to newpest@ncagr.gov. New county detections will continue to be sent to a federal identifier for verification and the online map showing its range will continue to be updated accordingly.

Table 1. Positive emerald ash borer detections in North Carolina by county, method of detection, and date.

County	Method of Detection			Date of Initial Detection
	Positive trap	Infested tree(s)	<i>Cerceris</i> wasp	
Buncombe	X			8/11/2015
Catawba	X			8/11/2015
Durham		X		8/6/2015
Franklin			X	7/15/2015
Graham	X			7/9/2015
Granville	X	X		5/28/2013
Guilford	X			8/6/2015
Iredell	X			8/12/2015
Johnston		X		6/30/2015
Lincoln	X			8/13/2015
Madison	X			8/4/2015
Orange	X	X		7/10/2015
Person	X	X		6/7/2013
Vance	X	X		6/10/2013
Wake	X			6/19/2015
Warren		X		7/16/2013
Wayne	X	X		3/13/2015
Wilson		X		7/8/2015