



Forest Health *Notes*



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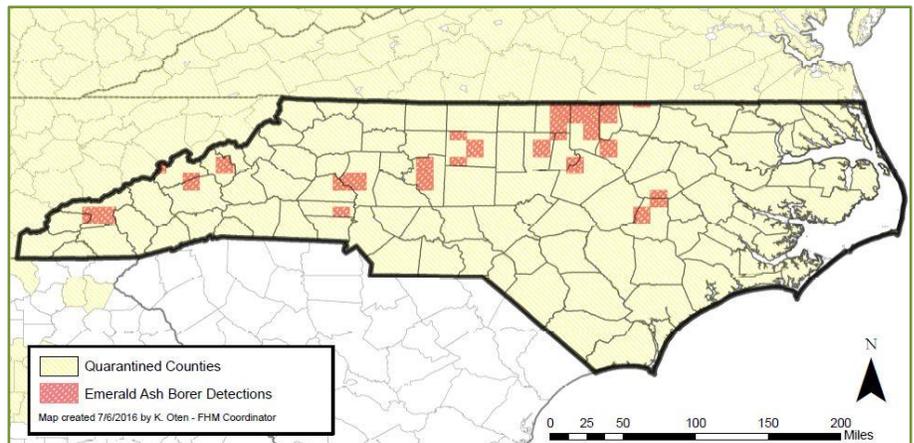
Emerald Ash Borer Found in Four New Counties by Early Summer *FH Branch requests notification of new finds*



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.

This summer, the emerald ash borer (EAB) has already been detected in four counties, bringing the total number of infested counties statewide to 22 as of early July (see Table 1). These early-season detections indicate we may be in for an active year for finding the invasive beetle across the state. The Forest Health Branch encourages all new detections of EAB, whether in new counties or not, to be reported.

History of EAB in N.C. The beetle was first found in the state in 2013 in four counties along the NC/VA state line. No new detections occurred in 2014 but in 2015, the emerald ash borer was found in 14 additional counties, bringing the statewide total to 18 positive counties. With the abundance and scattered distribution of the detections, the entire state of North Carolina was put under quarantine for the insect in September 2015.



Emerald ash borer detections in North Carolina are shown in red; quarantined zones are in yellow. Map current as of July 2016.

State-wide Quarantine. 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 are regularly done and involve canvassing areas, searching for symptomatic ash. Lastly, the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division has a *Cerceris* wasp biosurveillance program. This program monitors the beetles captured by 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.

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 (from the NCFS range map), call or email Forest Health staff. New county detections will continue to be sent to a federal identifier for verification.

Table 1. Emerald ash borer detections in NC by county, method of detection, & 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
Davidson		X		6/7/2016
Durham		X		8/6/2015
Forsyth		X		6/7/2016
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
Swain			X	6/19/2016
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
Yancey			X	6/27/2016

This publication was published in Portable Document Format (PDF) to inform and educate NCFS personnel and other forestry interests about health issues affecting North Carolina forest resources.

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