



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

May 2009

Dear Homeowner Association:

In the summer of 2008 three infestations of an insect called emerald ash borer (EAB) were discovered in Fairfax County. EAB larvae kill ash trees by feeding on the inner bark and disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. It was introduced accidentally into the United States, most likely in wood packing materials coming from Asia, and was first detected in Michigan in 2002. The following counties and cities are quarantined for emerald ash borer: Fairfax, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. The following items may not be moved from quarantined areas without a compliance agreement: all hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock, ash green lumber, any other ash material, living, dead, cut or fallen, including logs, stumps, branches, roots, as well as composted and uncomposted chips from any species of ash.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and Fairfax County, are embarking on a statewide survey to determine the extent of areas infested with the EAB. The survey started in mid-April and will run through the end of August. As part of the EAB survey efforts, VDACS personnel will install 2000 traps throughout Fairfax County. The traps are easy to spot. They are purple in color, triangular in shape, and measure 14" wide by 24" long. The traps are baited with natural plant oil and covered with a non-toxic glue to catch the insects. VDACS staff will check the traps periodically to ensure proper placement, replace the lure, collect specimens, and remove the traps at the end of the survey.

The damage caused by this invasive insect can mean the loss of millions of dollars for homeowners, landowners, nursery, and forest products industries. It is extremely important to track the progression of EAB. If we can determine its spread, it will help unaffected localities develop options for the management of this destructive pest.

For additional information about EAB and other forest pest activities in Fairfax County, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/trees.htm> or call (703) 324 5304, TTY 711.

Sincerely,

Troy Shaw  
Coordinator  
Forest Pest Program

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