



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 17, 2008

TO: All Architects, Builders, Developers, Engineers, Contractors, Surveyors and Utility, Tree Service, Landscaping and Nursery Companies practicing in Fairfax County

SUBJECT: **Letter #08-23**, Planting of ash trees discouraged in Fairfax County in response to the Emerald Ash Borer

Three infestations of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) have been discovered in Fairfax County. They were found in Newington, the Town of Herndon and the Bailey's Crossroads area.

Fairfax County is now quarantined for emerald ash borer, as are other local jurisdictions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Science Advisory Council has recommended that no eradication action be taken in Fairfax County due to the extent of the infestations and the fact that similar eradication attempts in other U.S. states have failed. Since the emerald ash borer infests all species of ash and is almost always fatal without costly annual or biannual preventative treatment, the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division is discouraging its use in the landscape. Tree canopy credits shall not be granted for planting any species of ash (*Fraxinus spp.*). This does not include mountain-ash (*Sorbus spp.*) which is unaffected by the insect.

Background: EAB is an invasive wood boring beetle that is native to China and Eastern Asia. EAB is present in some parts of the United States. EAB probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship consumer and other goods. Currently, the counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William and Fauquier and the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax in Virginia are quarantined for EAB. In addition, the entire states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois are quarantined for EAB, together with portions of Michigan, Prince George's County in Maryland, four counties in western Pennsylvania and Fayette County, West Virginia. It was first detected in the United States in southeastern Michigan in 2002. Since then, EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of over 25 million ash trees in the United States.

If you have any questions, please contact Forest Pest Management at **703-324-5304, TTY 711.**

Sincerely,

James W. Patteson, PE
Director

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