



# WHAT WILL THE INITIATIVE ACCOMPLISH?

As part of the initiative, states will:

- assess regional rural and urban forest resources;
- develop public education programs to inform the public of invasive species, their threats and how citizens can get involved in prevention, detection and mitigation efforts;
- create and establish regional, citizen-based monitoring and detection networks; and
- identify and cultivate markets for the vast quantities of waste wood generated by trees lost to invasive species.

## Tree Resource Assessment

Both urban and rural areas in each state are being surveyed to determine regional tree resources. These assessments will provide a clearer picture of the region's species composition and help identify areas most at risk to different types of invasive species. Information from this assessment will also help estimate economic impacts of invasive species, as well as the volume of wood that will be generated by dead and dying trees.

Among the four states, nearly 2,000 communities and 2.2 million acres are being sampled. Assessment results will be applied geospatially, allowing forestry professionals to target efforts to areas most at risk.

## Education and Outreach

A well-informed public is essential to combating invasive species. In many areas where EAB has been found, well-educated citizens who suspected EAB infestation were the first to contact natural resource professionals. For EAB, a series of educational materials, both print and electronic, are being developed to inform people of EAB's threat, how to identify both the insect and ash trees and alternative species for landscape plantings.

## Monitoring and Detecting

The project will establish a monitoring system for early detection of an invasive species infestation. In the case of EAB, it is most commonly spread through infested ash firewood. Therefore, locations most likely to have infested firewood and areas where firewood is most likely to be used, such as campgrounds, will be closely monitored. States will work closely with Departments of Agriculture and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to develop the most effective detection methods.

## Marketing and Utilization

Dead and dying trees generate a tremendous volume of wood. Opportunities for utilizing this wood to foster rural economic development will be aggressively explored.

# EAB TIMELINE

## Mid -1990s

- EAB is thought to have arrived in the U.S. on solid wood packing materials from Asia.

## 2002

- EAB discovered near Detroit, Michigan.

## 2003

- EAB discovered in Ohio.
- EAB transported to Maryland on infested nursery stock from Michigan.

## 2004

- EAB discovered in northern Indiana.

## 2006

- EAB discovered in northern Illinois.

## 2007

- EAB discovered in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.
- Great Plains Tree and Forest Invasives Initiative established to prepare for EAB's arrival in the northern plains states.

## Sources:

[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)  
Maryland Department of Agriculture

## TO LEARN MORE

For more information about the Great Plains Initiative or to request materials distributed by the group, contact any of the state forestry agencies involved or Steve Rasmussen, Nebraska Forest Service district forester and Great Plains Initiative coordinator, at [srasmussen2@unl.edu](mailto:srasmussen2@unl.edu) or 510 N. Pearl Street, Suite C Wayne, NE 68787.

For more information about emerald ash borer visit [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info), [www.na.fs.fed.us](http://www.na.fs.fed.us) (USFS Northeast Area) or [www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu) (Michigan State University Extension).



*Ash's adaptability and beautiful fall foliage have made it a desirable landscape tree. For decades, it has been planted extensively in communities across the country, meaning EAB has the potential to turn lush urban forests into barren, shadeless landscapes. Photos: USDA APHIS.*

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