

June 10, 2005

SUCCESS STORY

Subject: Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer is an exotic beetle that has killed millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan. In early 2004, it was discovered that emerald ash borer-infested trees had been sold to homeowners in Fairfax County, Virginia as a result of no-compliance with the quarantine on a Michigan nursery.

The Forest Health Protection Unit in the Southern Region provided fiscal and technical support through the Virginia Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program to survey the area and provide tree-replacement vouchers to landowners who lost ash as a result of the eradication cut. All trees from the nursery in question were cut down and chipped and all ash trees within a ¼ mile were also cut and chipped (over 200 trees).

All follow up surveys have been negative. This is a great example of successful action to prevent a new infestation of an unwanted exotic species.