NJ Emerald Ash Borer Update
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As you know, Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed in New Jersey in the summer of 2014. In response, representatives from NJ Department of Agriculture, NJ State Forestry Services, USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, and Rutgers University formed the NJ EAB Task Force to address this problem, and to help consolidate and disburse information and resources relevant to EAB. We are happy to have this opportunity to provide an update on some of the Task Force initiatives, as well as some general guidance for New Jersey's response to EAB.

In order to get a better idea of the extent and spread of EAB, shade tree program volunteers in municipalities within a 12 mile radius of the initial EAB confirmations in Bridgewater and Hillsborough Townships in Somerset County, Ewing Township in Mercer County, and Westampton Township in Burlington County were contacted and asked to take responsibility for hanging and monitoring an EAB trap through the 2015 growing season. As a result traps were deployed to 75 municipalities in Burlington, Camden, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Somerset, and Union Counties. So far, the trapping program has identified EAB in six additional municipalities – Franklin Township in Somerset County, Hopewell Borough, Hamilton Township, West Windsor Township, and Princeton in Mercer County, and Edgewater Park in Burlington County. As the traps are removed and checked once more, it is possible that additional locations will be identified. The task force would like to thank the municipalities and individuals that volunteered to help with this trapping program. Your efforts are much appreciated.

In order to get a better idea of how extensive the municipally owned ash tree population is throughout New Jersey, a team of student interns from Rutgers University conducted a rapid survey of ash trees in 43 municipalities. The survey locations were selected to quickly fill gaps in the existing data (street tree inventories that 53 municipalities have shared with Rutgers over the past 15 years). The combination gives us ash tree totals for almost 100 municipalities, which will be used to better understand the financial and environmental impact that EAB will have on New Jersey.

The municipal ash counts collected in the 43 locations surveyed will be applied to three management scenarios in the Purdue EAB Cost Calculator, and the results will be shared with the municipalities. A statewide report will also be generated with the information collected, and will be posted on the NJ EAB Task Force website (www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov). These reports are in process now, and should be available within the next few weeks. In addition, the student interns will have a display at the Shade Tree Federation conference in Atlantic City this October, and look forward to discussing their findings with the attendees.

If you represent a community with a lot of ash trees, especially in Somerset, Mercer, or Burlington County, this could all feel a little overwhelming. Please don't panic! One of the benefits of being 12 years behind the initial infestation is that we can learn from the experience of the states who have dealt with EAB before us. We know that for effective management it is essential to have an accurate inventory of your ash trees. If you have not inventoried your ash trees yet, that should be your first step in preparing for EAB. Once you know how many ash trees you have, and their locations and sizes, you can start to develop your management plan. If you have a significant number of ash trees,

we recommend that you work with a professional urban forester, such as a NJ Certified Tree Expert or ISA Certified Arborist, to help you determine which trees are worth saving (through a long term program of chemical treatments), and which should be removed. You should also get location and size specific quotes for the costs of treatment and removal in your municipality. If you do plan on treating ash trees to protect them from EAB, you may want to begin treatment next spring, especially if you are in or close to Burlington, Mercer, or Somerset Counties. There are several treatment options if you begin prior to infestation. Once your trees are showing signs of infestation your treatment options are fewer. It is generally agreed that spring is the most effective time to treat, and will yield the best results. As we mentioned in our last article, treatment and removal costs can be reduced significantly by contracting in bulk. We encourage you to reach out to your residents and neighboring municipalities to coordinate efforts and take advantage of bulk rates.

Finally, we want to draw your attention to some of the information you can find on the NJ EAB Task Force website (www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov). On the "For Communities" page you will find an *Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for Municipalities Template*. Appendix B of this template lists several strategies to SLow Ash Mortality (SLAM). These strategies are designed to slow the spread and reduce the population of EAB so as to delay the onset of mass ash mortality. We encourage you to consider incorporating one or more of these methods in your EAB management plan. On the "Emerald Ash Borer Resources" page you can find a comprehensive *EAB Insecticide Options Fact Sheet* that can help you make decisions about treatment. Updated infestation maps, reports from the Rutgers rapid ash survey, and an *EAB Preparation Checklist* will be added to the site over the next several months, so check the site often for new content. Good luck with your efforts to manage EAB in your community. We hope to see you at the Shade Tree Federation conference in Atlantic City this October.