

Goal of the new approach

The threat posed by invasive pests, such as EAB, is serious and the CFIA recognizes the hardships and challenges this pest presents to affected stakeholders. The primary actions undertaken by the CFIA under the authority of the *Plant Protection Act* are aimed at preventing quarantine pests from entering into, or spreading within Canada. This includes enforcing regulated areas that are determined based on scientific information, and that are practical to manage with available resources.

Even though the detection tools for this pest have improved since EAB was first detected in Canada, studies have shown that new detections of EAB often represent populations that have been established for three to four years before being detected. Healthy looking trees can be infested without displaying any signs or symptoms, especially at early stages of infestation. For these reasons, and based on past survey efforts, the CFIA considers that EAB has a high probability of being present in a larger area than is indicated by the available trapping and survey data.

Consequently, the CFIA must modify its regulatory approach in order to restrict the movement of EAB to areas of Ontario, Quebec and elsewhere in Canada that are considered not to be infested. As the plant health regulatory agency for Canada, we must ensure we are using our limited resources effectively by prioritizing their deployment in regulatory programs that protect regions considered to be pest-free.

Working in partnership with organizations such as the Invasive Species Centre (ISC) of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Quebec Minister of Natural Resources, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship and the Canadian Forest Service, the CFIA consulted with affected provinces and municipalities on several options. The CFIA has made its decision on the planned approach and is moving forward with the enlargement of the regulated area, as shown on the map above.

How could the planned approach impact your area

The following are items that are regulated within an area regulated for the presence of the EAB:

- Ash trees and any part thereof including fresh leaves, branches (with or without leaves)
- Ash sawn wood
- Ash bark, ash wood chips and ash bark chips
- Ash logs and ash pulpwood
- Ash nursery stock
- Any other ash wood product that could harbour or sustain the life cycle of EAB

- Wood packaging materials with an ash component including pallets, pallet stock, wood packaging, and dunnage
- Firewood of all species

Ash products can move freely within a regulated area but can not leave a regulated area without written permission from the CFIA. However, there are compliance programs with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for business ventures seeking to sell or move ash lumber, non-ash firewood, and other regulated materials, outside of a regulated area.

The following are items that are exempt within an area that becomes regulated for the presence of the EAB:

All processed ash wood materials that are completely free of bark, of sapwood and free of pests and/or signs of live pests and that have been subject to conditions or treatments that have altered the article in a manner to significantly reduce the potential of the wood items to provide a habitat for EAB. Some **examples** are:

- Sawdust
- Tool handles
- Sporting goods
- Plywood, fibreboard, particle board, oriented strand board, wafer board
- Veneer
- Wood pellets
- Moulding
- Baseball bats
- Finished flooring

Please note that the CFIA acknowledges that ash products are particularly significant to the First Nations communities. The CFIA will consider that handicrafts, baskets, snowshoes, hunting and fishing decoys, canoe paddles or other products that are made from ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*) and are free of bark, free of sapwood and free of signs of pests as exempt under these regulations.

Information and training support:

The CFIA is committed to offer informational support regarding biology/pest fact sheets, web links, pictures, communication materials, sourcing of traps and procedures, and sharing of research developments that may be helpful to any community. Furthermore, CFIA local staff are available to answer questions and provide guidance where possible.

To inquire about these services please contact eab_agrile@inspection.gc.ca. You can also contact your local CFIA office. A list of CFIA offices can be found at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/directory/offbure.shtml>

I should note that all pest situations are subject to periodic review based on pest distribution and, as of April 2013, the CFIA commenced implementation of a transitional approach that will result in full implementation of this option by April 1, 2014. Transitional activities include training and outreach with municipalities in the impacted areas to raise awareness, and share expertise on surveillance methodologies, should they wish to implement management programs of their own.

I have asked Ms. Mireille Marcotte, National Manager, Forest Resources, Plant Biosecurity and Forestry Division, to be available to discuss with you and your community the regulatory approach to be pursued as of April 2014 for the management of EAB in Canada in more details. Ms. Marcotte can be reached by telephone at 613-773-7270 or by email at mireille.marcotte@inspection.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Wolff
Chief Plant Health Officer
Director, Plant Biosecurity and Forestry Division

Note: Si vous aimeriez recevoir cette information en français, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec Mme Mireille Marcotte par téléphone au 613-773-7270 ou par courriel à mireille.marcotte@inspection.gc.ca.