

No More Quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer?

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USDA's Animal & Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) is recommending an end to the federal quarantine for emerald ash borer (EAB), citing that such quarantines have "outlived their usefulness." This follows APHIS' announcements earlier this year of newly regulated areas in Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Quarantines currently regulate interstate movement of hardwood firewood, EAB-host wood and wood products, nursery stock, and green lumber waste, compost, and chips of ash species.

First identified in 2002 near Detroit, EAB has since established populations throughout the U.S. from the East Coast to the intermountain West, including Colorado. It has not yet been identified on the West Coast. Infestations are present in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

APHIS vows to continue supporting research on EAB control, including the release of biocontrol agents.

APHIS is accepting comments on the [proposed rule](#), published in the Federal Register.

Comments will be accepted until November 19, 2018.