

GEORGIA FORESTRY  
COMMISSION



## **Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Statewide Expansion**

November 15, 2017

Re: 2017 Expansion of Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

To All Emerald Ash Borer Stakeholders:

Under existing statutes, the Georgia Forestry Commission has authority over insects or diseases of “forest pests” and Georgia Department of Agriculture has authority over pests impacting “urban trees”. We collaborated as we crafted our initial quarantine regulations for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) after its first detection in 2013, and we still believe it is imperative our quarantine areas parallel each other as we expand our current quarantine. Limiting the man-caused spread of EAB and allow movement of uninfested and treated ash materials has always been the goal of Georgia’s Emerald Ash Borer program.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first detected in Georgia in 2013 in DeKalb and Fulton Counties and has now been found in 23 counties in Georgia. As of August 2017, there are infestations in 31 states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Both the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Forestry Commission have followed federal guidelines and restricted the movement of ash materials out of the quarantine area since 2013. Both agencies worked closely with forest landowners, loggers, wood using mills, firewood producers, nurseries, municipalities, and others during the last three years to ensure that commerce could still occur while safeguards were in place to prevent ash borer movement.

After extensive discussion with the Georgia Forestry Association, Georgia Forestry Commission and Department of Agriculture staff, and numerous other partners and stakeholders, it has been determined that the Georgia Forestry Commission and Georgia Department of Agriculture will extend the quarantine area of Georgia to encompass the entire state. This statewide quarantine will be effective **December 1, 2017.**

We look forward to continuing our relationship with the forest landowners, wood using industries and the Department of Agriculture as we work together on many critical forestry concerns which threaten Georgia’s forests. The new Georgia Quarantine Map is posted at: <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/forest-health/eab/index.cfm>

Sincerely,

Chip Bates  
Forest Health Coordinator  
Georgia Forestry Commission  
912-536-7544