

2020 Emerald Ash Borer Update

By: GFC Forest Health staff - September 10, 2020

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first detected in Georgia in 2013 in DeKalb and Fulton Counties and has now been found in 37 counties in Georgia. As of September 2020, there are infestations in 36 states and five Canadian provinces. 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 this time to ensure commerce could continue while safeguards were in place to prevent ash borer movement. In December of 2017, the state of Georgia moved from a regional to a statewide quarantine of ash materials, which is still in place.

In 2020, GFC foresters hung 65 purple prism traps across the state. From these traps, 3 traps in 3 new counties came back with positive confirmation of emerald ash borer. These counties are: Banks, Floyd and Pickens. One positive confirmation was also made from a log sample in Butts County (see map below). These additional counties bring the total number of positive counties in Georgia to 37. The Georgia Forestry Commission will continue to monitor the spread of emerald ash borer across the state. If you have any questions about this or the quarantine, please contact your local forester or visit the GFC website at https://gatrees.org/emerald-ash-borer-eab/

