2021 Emerald Ash Borer Update

By: GFC Forest Health staff – September 24, 2021

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first detected in Georgia in 2013 in DeKalb and Fulton Counties and has now been found in 44 counties in Georgia. As of September 2021, there are infestations in 35 states, the District of Columbia and five Canadian provinces. Since 2013, both the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Forestry Commission have followed federal guidelines and restricted the movement of ash materials out of quarantine areas. In January 2021, the USDA APHIS removed the federal EAB quarantine regulations. Following this, in June 2021, both the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Forestry Commission removed their state quarantines. During this time both agencies have 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 emerald ash borer movement.

In 2021, GFC foresters hung 62 purple prism traps across the state. From these traps, 6 new counties came back with positive confirmation of emerald ash borer. These counties are: Clarke, Hart, Franklin, Madison, Oconee and Stephens. One positive confirmation was also made from a bark sample in Forsyth County (see map below). These additional counties bring the total number of positive counties in Georgia to 44. The Georgia Forestry Commission will continue to monitor the spread of emerald ash borer across the state. If you have any questions about this, please contact your local forester or visit the GFC website at https://gatrees.org/emerald-ash-borer-eab/