



NURSERY NEWS

USDA Proposes Removal of Emerald Ash Borer Regulations

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA) has proposed removal of the quarantine regulations for emerald ash borer (EAB). The proposal would end all USDA regulatory activities and allow movement of formerly regulated articles. USDA has determined that the regulations have "out-lived their usefulness." USDA has decided to direct resources toward research and release of biocontrol agents.

A review period on the regulation was open for public comment in October and November 2018, and the comments are currently under review by USDA. Comments can be reviewed by visiting <https://www.dontmovefirewood.org/2018/11/>. This blog has summarized the comments for easy review.

States that have not found EAB or have only limited distribution of the pest may have authority to enact state regulations to prevent or slow the spread and establishment of EAB to uninfested areas. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) is currently reviewing our options and will be reaching out to our partners and neighboring states regarding state regulations for EAB. NDDA intends to continue trapping and monitoring for EAB as well as conducting outreach and training activities alongside NDSU Extension and the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS).

In 2018, NDDA along with NDFS, NDSU Extension,



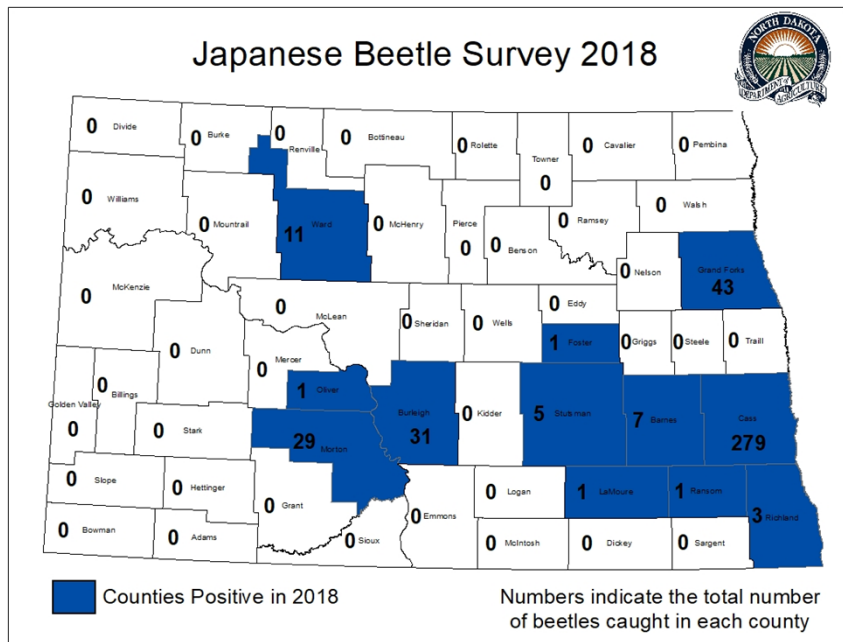
EAB larva. Taken in Minneapolis, MN by C. Elhard, NDDA

and several city foresters placed approximately 300 EAB monitoring traps across the state at high risk sites such as parks, campgrounds, and rest areas. There were no EAB found. This was the 14th year of statewide EAB trapping. Estimates by the USDA Forest Service indicate that there are over 90 million ash trees in North Dakota's forests and woodlands. Ash makes up more than 30 percent of North Dakota's 55,000 miles of conservation plants, more than 60 percent of riparian forests, and in many communities over 60 percent of the boulevard trees are ash. When emerald ash borer (EAB) moves into North Dakota, it will have a major impact on forest resources in the state as well as a drastic habitat change if it becomes widely established.



Japanese Beetle Survey Update

NDDA continued to survey for Japanese beetles in 2018, focusing on locations that were positive in 2017 as well as a broad survey extending to most counties in the state. In 2018, 57 master gardener volunteers participated as well as a number of nurseries. Traps were placed beginning in May and June. All traps were removed by October 31. Traps were in place for an average of 114 days. A total of 825 traps were placed across the state. The map to the right shows the number of beetles caught in each county with positive counties highlighted in blue. After all traps were removed, the data was collected from all trappers.



In all traps, 412 beetles were caught across the state, 255 of those in nurseries. Only twelve counties had positive traps, down from 22 in 2017. Cass County overall was down 46 percent from 2018 and Burleigh County was down over 88 percent from last year.

A total of twelve counties had positive traps. These were: Barnes (3 positive traps, 7 beetles); Burleigh (12, 31); Cass (59, 279); Foster (1, 1); Grand Forks (10, 43); LaMoure (1, 1); Morton (8, 29); Oliver (1, 1); Ransom (1, 1); Richland (2, 3); Stutsman (3, 5); and Ward (10, 11).

A copy of the full 2018 Japanese Beetle Survey report can be found on our website at <https://www.nd.gov/ndda/plant-industries/pest-survey-and-outreach/japanese-beetle>.

North Dakota Nursery Rules Rewrite and Update

During the 2017-2019 legislative session, the legislature completed a rewrite of all North Dakota agriculture laws. The nursery law was part of this rewrite. NDDA recently reviewed all the department's administrative rules to make sure everything was also updated in the rules. Public notice and comment period for the changes ran from October 25 to December 6, 2018. The only comments received were in support of the rule change. A summary of the changes can be found on our website at <https://www.nd.gov/ndda/administrative-rules-proposed-changes>. These changes will be implemented if approved by the Administrative Rules committee at their next meeting.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for the 2019 North Dakota Nursery, Greenhouse and Landscape Association Convention to be held January 28-30 at the Delta by Marriot in Fargo. Stop by and visit us at our booth!

Japanese Beetle Traps for Nurseries

NDDA currently has a surplus of Japanese beetle traps in storage and would like to offer up free traps to nurseries interested in maintaining traps in the future, even after NDDA no longer conducts a full scale survey. Hanging traps can help monitor populations at the nursery. If interested, please contact Charles at celhard@nd.gov.