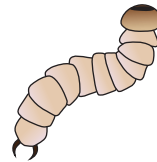




# THE UTAH EMERALD ASH BORER QUARANTINE



## THE PROBLEM

**Emerald ash borer (EAB) has destroyed tens of millions of ash trees (*Fraxinus*)** since it was detected in Michigan in 2002.<sup>1</sup> A federal quarantine helped prevent EAB introduction into Utah, but was it ended in 2021.



## WHAT'S AT RISK

Utah's urban canopies are estimated to be between 15-20% ash.<sup>2</sup> Southern Utah is also home to the native singleleaf ash (*Fraxinus anomala*). **EAB threatens to make these plants functionally extinct.**<sup>3</sup>



## THE SOLUTION

**Utah has enacted a state quarantine**, which prevents the movement of ash nursery stock and other materials from EAB-infested states and states that are not enacting effective quarantines.

## "THE GREEN MENACE"

EMERALD ASH BORER



*Agrilus planipennis*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### CAN ASH NURSERY STOCK BE IMPORTED INTO UTAH?

Because no other state is currently in compliance with the quarantine, not at this time. However, UDAF is willing to work with other states that want to achieve compliance and out-of-state ash trees may be available for purchase in the future.

### WHY IS THE QUARANTINE NECESSARY?

Without a quarantine, Utah would likely become quickly infested with EAB. This is because EAB-infested states would be able to import nursery stock that could carry EAB.

### WHAT MATERIALS ARE COVERED BY THESE RULES?

Ash trees, ash green waste, ash firewood, and any other materials that may be a means of EAB conveyance.

### WHEN DID THE QUARANTINE GO INTO EFFECT?

April 23rd, 2021

### WHAT OTHER STATES ARE ENACTING A QUARANTINE?

Thus far, California and Montana.

### WHY IS EAB SO PROBLEMATIC IN NORTH AMERICA?

EAB is not problematic in its native Asian range. However, in North America, ash trees have little host resistance and natural enemies are either absent or less effective at controlling EAB populations.<sup>4</sup>

### CAN ASH TREES SURVIVE EAB ATTACK?

Of the tens of millions of ash trees infested with EAB only a small percentage have survived without human intervention.<sup>5</sup> To protect ash trees from EAB attack, insecticide treatments are usually necessary. While effective methods exist, they can be difficult to time correctly and the most efficacious treatments are expensive.<sup>6</sup>

### ARE THERE ASH TREES RESISTANT TO EAB?

Scientists are attempting to breed EAB-resistant ash trees. While candidate resistance genes have been identified,<sup>7</sup> there are no commercially available resistant trees at this time. Furthermore, none of the native or naturalized ash trees that are currently growing in Utah are thought to be resistant.

### HOW WOULD EAB MAKE ASH TREES FUNCTIONALLY EXTINCT AND WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Ash canopies have been wiped out by EAB in infested Eastern states. In subsequent years, ash trees have regrown in these areas. However, new seedlings die faster from EAB attack than they replenish. This has resulted in a long term negative population trajectory for many ash species. Consequently, ash trees have disappeared from certain areas or lost their ecological function.<sup>3</sup>

**WANT MORE  
INFORMATION?**

UDAF NURSERY PROGRAM  
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#### REFERENCES

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Photo by Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry

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