

HISTORY:

In 2004, voters in Bay County approved adding the wording "*suppression of other invasive, non-native pests that damage local horticulture (trees and plants)*" to the millage language. This expands the mission of the Gypsy Moth Program to include. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invading, non-native pest which has been documented throughout Michigan and particularly in a number of county's surrounding Bay County. The pest has caused serious tree mortality wherever it is found and has the potential of doing so in Bay County. Active monitoring through the girdling of trees to discern EAB presence as soon as possible has been done by the Michigan Department of Agriculture(MDA). Once EAB is confirmed in an area, the site is quarantined and no raw deciduous wood products can be moved out of the area.

MISSION:

For the purposes of the Bay County Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program, "suppression" is defined to mean the following:

Suppression: To monitor for EAB's presence in Bay County, educate and provide technical assistance to residents, visitors and landowners toward the control and management of the EAB. Suppression does not currently include any tree removal, area wide treatment, or other active attempts to eliminate the invading pest. As new technologies and treatment practices become available, they will be incorporated into the program.

It is our mission to prepare Bay County for the eventual arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer and to work cooperatively with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and other agencies to suppress the spread of this pest.

WORK PLAN APPROACH:

Monitoring - The EAB Program will monitor:

- ◆ Area trees on both public and private lands
 - ◇ Site Inspections - at the request of the landowner
 - ◇ Non-destructive trapping
- ◆ New technologies and treatment practices through cooperative work with MDA, MSU, etc.
- ◆ Identify areas of infestation
- ◆ Tree inventory (on public lands) and species evaluation

Education - Education of general public will include both residents and visitors to the area.

- ◆ School Presentations
- ◆ Bay-3 TV Programing
- ◆ Township meetings
- ◆ Master Gardeners Presentations
- ◆ Disseminate Public Information

Technical Assistance - Assistance will be provided to landowners

- ◆ Land owner control options
- ◆ Tree identification on private land at the request of the owner
- ◆ Seed collection

ADMINISTRATION:

The Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee will serve as the reviewing body guiding EAB activities.