

New EAB quarantine to include all of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service more than doubled the size of the emerald ash borer (EAB) quarantine to include all of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio effective Dec. 1, 2006.

The pest is responsible for the death and decline of more than 25 million ash trees in the United States. If the EAB is not contained or eradicated, it could cost state and local governments \$7 billion during the next 25 years to remove and replace dead and dying ash trees, according to USDA.

At the end of 2006, USDA had spent more than \$100 million on research, eradication and reforestation efforts.

The federal order restricts the interstate movement of regulated



Because of the federal EAB quarantine, growers in Indiana, Illinois and Ohio can't sell ash trees outside the state.

articles that originate within the quarantine area. Regulated articles include ash nursery stock as well as firewood and composted and uncomposted wood chips.

Three years of EAB survey data support the need to implement strict regulations for the movement of host material, APHIS officials said.

When states kept adding counties to their quarantines during the last

few years, many growers drastically scaled back or canceled ash production.

"Many growers were forced to deplete their inventory for pennies on the dollar," said Bill Stalter, Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association executive director.

Both the state and federal quarantines hit Illinois growers in the pocket book.

"Ash is one of the top, if not the top-producing trees in the state of Illi-

nois," said Dave Bender, Illinois Nurserymen's Association executive director. "It's going to be a very difficult tree to replace."

Wilson Nurseries in Hampshire Ill., started destroying ash trees about a year ago.

"We kept a few so if the market is there, we can sell them. By the time we get rid of most of our production, we'll have destroyed about \$6 million at market value worth of ash trees," said Roger Fick, Wilson Nurseries president.

As a grower, the ash will be hard to replace, Fick said.

◆ **For more:** APHIS, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737; (866) 322-4512; www.aphis.usda.gov/ppa/ep/eab. Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association, 72 Dorchester Square, Westerville, OH 43081-3350; (800) 825-5062; www.onla.org. Illinois Nurserymen's Association, 2900 Greenbriar Drive, Springfield, IL 62704; (888) 525-3900; www.ina-online.org. Wilson Nurseries, 43W967 State Route 72, Hampshire, IL 60140; (847) 683-3700; [@nichegd.com](http://www.wilsonnurseries.com.niche)

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GROWING MEDIA

Company makes peat alternative from dairy waste

Organix Inc., an organic waste-processing firm, created a peat moss replacement made from dairy solids. A full-scale production facility is slated to open during the first quarter of 2007.

The company's FibeRite process takes dairy solids from an anaerobic digester and converts it into RePeat, a high-value peat substitute designed for horticultural use.

"The quality-control aspect of this system accomplishes two major feats," said Russ Davis, Organix president. "We are essentially turning out a premium horticultural product as a direct result of designing an environmentally friendly way of dealing with dairy manure."

RePeat is not disturbed during processing, so there's no foreign matter such as dirt or rock inside the product, he said. Finished RePeat weighs less than half of finished compost, allowing for fuller loads and less transport

costs per yard. The company said it has received letters of intent from national distributors to purchase its product.

◆ **For more:** Organix Inc., 2517 S. Wilbur, Walla Walla, WA 99362; (509) 527-0526; www.organix.us.

MARKETING

Valleybrook offers new Rock Stars

Canadian grower Valleybrook Gardens introduced a marketing program last fall to drive sales of alpine plants.

Rock Stars is a collec-