

Growing Emerald Ash Borer infestation increases opportunities for wood utilization

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) emerald ash borer quarantine now includes nearly 40% of the state. Thirty nine counties in northern, central and south-central Illinois are now impacted by the emerald ash borer infestation. As the number of ash tree removals increase, the need to find uses for the removed wood also does.

The quarantine is intended to prevent the artificial spread of the beetle through the movement of infested wood and nursery stock. It specifically prohibits the removal of ash logs, limbs, branches, and lumber with either the bark or the outer one-inch of sapwood, or both, attached from quarantined areas.

The full quarantine area map and detailed information about the EAB program can be accessed on the internet at www.IllinoisEAB.com.

Report Now Available: Feasibility Study for a Community Wood Reclamation System

A report examining the feasibility a community wood reclamation system in Illinois, dubbed Robbinswood, is now available for download.

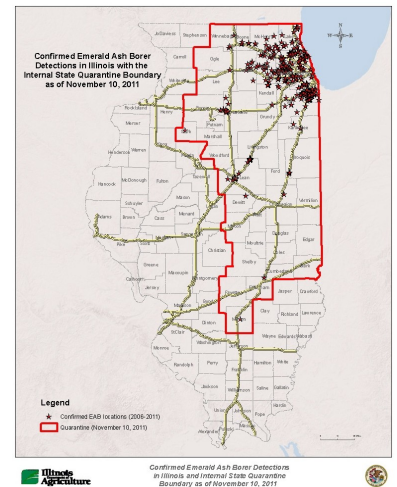
Robbinswood would supply the forthcoming biomass energy plant, Robbins Community Power, with wood chips while diverting higher quality wood for grade lumber, industrial wood products, and custom local use. With a grant from the U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC), the Illinois EAB Wood Utilization Team oversaw the study, which determined that starting up the system would require approximately one million dollars.

Because of the unknowns and costs involved, the study concluded that a phased in start up makes sense. In the first phase, Robbinswood would focus on processing chips and logs at two yards, the first near Robbins Community Power, and the second starting six months after the first. By piggy-backing on Robbins Community Power's need for fuel chips, Robbinswood would move urban wood into a new arena: accumulating logs into semi-load quantities in order to attract log buyers. Operating in larger quantities would allow urban wood to move into higher volume uses while also satisfying its traditional custom woodworking markets.

The long-term, large-scale biomass purchase agreement with Robbins Community Power would make this larger scale log retrieval possible. And, establishing a community wood reclamation system like Robbinswood provides the infrastructure to recover woody biomass from catastrophic causes such as the emerald ash borer (EAB) and weather-related events.

The recorded webinar and written report are available on www.illinoisurbanwood.org under the news header.

State Quarantine Boundary as of Nov. 10, 2011



"Regulated Articles" are defined as:

- 1) The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire) in any living stage of development;
- 2) Ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) of any size;
- 3) Ash limbs and branches;
- 4) Any cut non-coniferous, hardwood firewood;
- 5) Bark from ash trees and wood chips larger than one inch in two dimensions from ash trees;
- 6) Ash logs and lumber with either the bark or the outer one-half-inch of sapwood or both, attached;
- 7) Any item made from or containing the wood of the ash tree which is capable of spreading the emerald ash borer;
- 8) Any other article, product, or means of conveyance when it is determined by the Director of Agriculture that it presents the risk of spread of the Emerald Ash Borer in any stage of