



NEWS

CHARLES A. HARTKE, DIRECTOR • ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 1, 2006

CONTACTS:

Chris Herbert

217-558-1539

Jeff Squibb

217-558-1546

EMERALD ASH BORER DISCOVERED IN WINNETKA; 4TH ILLINOIS TOWN TO UNCOVER EAB

*Illinois Department of Agriculture, City government,
working to implement response plan and encourage public support*

WINNETKA, Ill. – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) today confirmed the **emerald ash borer (EAB)** has been located in Winnetka.

The infestation was discovered by an arborist late last week while assisting in an **extensive** survey initiated as a result of infestations in Wilmette and Evanston. The arborist **submitted** ash branches to the IDOA Des Plaines office with galleries symptomatic of EAB presence. The samples were sent on to the EAB headquarters in Brighton, Michigan where a positive confirmation of EAB larvae was made.

EAB is a destructive, non-native pest that feasts on ash trees. The first case was detected in June in Kane County. Since then, the insect was also found in Wilmette and Evanston. A quarantine zone has been established around 51 square miles of Kane County to contain the spread there. Once the survey in Cook County is complete, the quarantine will be amended to reflect the infestation in Wilmette, Evanston and Winnetka.

Anyone who suspects a tree has been infested is urged to first contact their local forestry department or county Extension office. The Illinois Department of Agriculture also will offer a toll-free hotline at 800-641-3934 for extension-confirmed infestations.