

A Cooperative Effort to Survey for Invasive Pest:

New Hampshire will be 'seeing purple'



May 1, 2012--Purple prism traps resembling box kites will be seen in New Hampshire ash trees again this year as part of the national emerald ash borer (EAB) survey with help from state and private agencies.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture are partnering with a natural resources company to survey for the EAB (*Agrilus planipennis*), a non-native, wood boring beetle that has attacked and destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in 15 states. This metallic, green beetle is native to Asia and is thought to have entered the United States via wood packing material. As of 2011, EAB has NOT been detected in New Hampshire but has been detected south of Montreal, Canada and in Albany County, New York. Early detection is critical in the management and control of invasive pests.

The purple traps (survey tools) will be hung in ash trees in all 10 counties of New Hampshire. The traps don't lure the EAB into an area but are used as detection tools to determine if they are currently present in the surveyed areas. The sooner EAB is detected, the more options available to manage the pest.

The traps are made of corrugated plastic and coated with very sticky, non-toxic glue that captures all sorts of insects. The trap attracts EAB through two different lures that hang inside the prism; one smells like ash leaves, the other smells like ash bark and the EABs are also attracted to the purple color of the trap. The traps will be monitored throughout the summer and will be removed in the fall.

The purple traps do not pose a threat to humans, pets, or wildlife; however, the glue is extremely sticky. If you find a fallen trap, record the trap number from the tag and call 802-828-4546. After regular business hours, leave your name and number along with the trap number and someone will return your call the next business day. For more information contact the NH Department of Agriculture or your local forester.

