



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Regulations

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic invasive pest of ash trees in Georgia. It is established in numerous other states and was first found in Georgia in 2013. It has since spread to 10 metro-Atlanta counties. Emerald Ash Borer is highly destructive to all species of ash trees and nursery stock, and is a serious threat to the ash component in Georgia's forests. To combat the spread of EAB, the state of Georgia has passed regulations which include a quarantine of counties where the pest has been discovered. The quarantine will help prevent human-assisted transport of EAB to counties where the beetle has not yet been detected. The insect has the natural ability to spread a few miles each year, but human-caused movement is capable of spreading it across our state in only few hours.



Since its discovery in Georgia, ash materials (or unprocessed wood products that potentially contain ash materials and harbor the insect) from several counties have been placed under the EAB quarantine. As EAB is detected in new counties, the quarantined areas will be updated. For more information and the most up-to-date quarantine map, please visit the Georgia Forestry Commission website: www.gfc.state.ga.us/forest-management/forest-health/eab/index.cfm.

If you are transporting loads of mixed hardwood materials (yard debris), these loads will be treated as though they may contain ash materials. These materials can be moved freely within the quarantined areas, but in order to move outside the quarantine areas, they must be treated first. Treatment includes chipping to one inch in two dimensions or composting. There is a provision within the regulations for untreated ash materials to be moved outside the quarantine area under specific times and provisions. They can only be moved between November 1 and March 1 (dormant season for the insect), they must be shipped to a facility that has been certified to handle the material, and must have documentation that is approved by the state of Georgia.

The following steps must be taken to get chips/mulch and compost certified to leave the quarantine area:

1. All chips/mulch must be 1" x 1" or smaller in two dimensions. Compost must meet EAB specifications.
2. Request a Compliance Agreement. Go to website referenced above, on the top right click on "Compliance Agreement Request" and fill out all information in the form.
3. Once you fill out the request, an EAB specialist will contact you to set up a meeting time to certify your chipper or compost pile. All chips/mulch must meet the mulch sampling protocol.
4. If the chips/mulch or compost pass, then a Compliance Agreement will be signed and the process of obtaining an e-certificate will be started. An e-certificate will be a digital symbol that can be printed on your load tickets/receipts to be turned in at a facility outside the quarantine area.
5. All Compliance Agreements will be re-certified on an annual basis.

For more information about the EAB regulations and the most up-to-date Quarantine Map, visit the website referenced above. Any other questions can be directed to Lynne Womack – 912-515-5180 or lwomack@gfc.state.ga.us.

Transporting untreated ash from quarantined to non-quarantined areas or knowingly selling ash products from a quarantined area within a non-quarantined area without an accompanying Certificate or Limited Permit violates federal and state regulations.

