

What's that purple thing hanging in the tree?

Trying to determine whether the invasive emerald ash borer has made its way to Texas can be a sticky situation.

A non-native insect that attacks ash trees, the emerald ash borer already is well established in 15 states and in Canada -- and it's expected to eventually arrive in the Lone Star State. If it does, it will threaten the state's valuable ash population.

In 2012, more than 1,700 emerald ash borer traps will be installed throughout Texas by USDA Plant and Animal Inspection Service, Texas Forest Service, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, US Forest Service, Sam Houston State University and other cooperators.

You might even see a purple beetle detector in a neighborhood near you.



How does it work?

Research has shown that the emerald ash borer is attracted to the purple color and shape of the trap. The trap includes an attractive bait (manuca oil) to lure in any emerald ash borers flying in the area. The surface is coated with sticky material to which the flying insects adhere. Both the sticky material and the bait are non-toxic.

How long will it be there?

The trap is placed in or near an ash tree in March, before the emerald ash borer flight season begins. The trap will be checked periodically for the presence of emerald ash borers or beetle lookalikes, and then removed in August after the flight season ends.

Will the trap bring EAB into the area?

No, the trap will only attract emerald ash borers that emerge from nearby infested trees. It will simply help officials determine if it already is present.

What is Emerald Ash Borer?

A metallic green colored, wood-boring beetle that may attack and kill all species of North American ash (*Fraxinus* spp.). It is native to Asia and was first detected attacking ash in Michigan in 2002. It only infests ash trees.

Where can I get more information on Emerald Ash Borer?

Visit www.emeraldashborer.info or www.texasinvasives.org.

How do I report a fallen trap?

East Texas: Joe Pase at jpase@tfs.tamu.edu

Central Texas: James Houser at jhouser@tfs.tamu.edu

North Texas: Charlie Helpert at c-helpert@tamu.edu

