Public Notice for comments on draft Emerald Ash Borer Regulations

According to O.C.G.A. §50-13-3, notice is hereby given that the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) proposes to adopt regulations to limit the spread of the non-native insect, Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), within the forests of Georgia. The public is invited to review the draft regulations (via this link). The authority for the GFC to pass these regulations, limit the movement of regulated articles and implement quarantine zones is found within O.C.G.A. §12-6-16.

This insect can be highly destructive to Georgia’s ash trees (*Fraxinus* species) and ash nursery stock. Therefore, it is in the best interest of Georgia’s citizens, agriculture, and silviculture that this quarantine be established to limit its human-assisted spread within the state. The purpose of this quarantine is to prevent the human-assisted spread of the Emerald Ash Borer to non-infested areas of the state by regulating the movement of those articles that are likely to transport this insect.

The public has opportunity to comment in writing either on-line (by clicking here), or via U.S. Mail (Attn: James Johnson; Georgia Forestry Commission; P.O. Box 819; Macon, GA 31202-0819). The comment period begins on November 4, 2013 and extends through December 6, 2013; and all comments must be received by this date.

A public hearing will be held at the Georgia Forestry Association near Forsyth, GA on November 13, 2013 beginning at 3:30 pm EST. Directions to this site can be found here.

Links:

Emerald Ash Borer draft regulations (click here)

More information about the Emerald Ash Borer (click here)

USDA - Animal and Plant Inspection Service EAB website (click here)

Submit a comment (click here)