

Timber Tellings

Tree- Killing Beetle Spreads to More Texas Counties

Texas A&M Forest Service

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The presence of the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) has been confirmed in two additional Texas counties this month – Morris and Rusk. EAB is now confirmed in 11 Texas counties, five of those added just this year.

EAB is an invasive wood-boring pest of ash trees that has killed millions of trees across 35 states since its arrival to the United States in 2002.

“The pest is a major threat to urban, suburban and rural forests as it aggressively kills ash trees within two to three years after infestation,” said Demian Gomez, Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Forest Health Coordinator.

The beetle was first detected in Texas in 2016 in Harrison County. Since then, EAB has been confirmed in Bowie, Cass, Dallas, Denton, Marion, Morris, Rusk, Wise, Parker and Tarrant counties.

“The rapid spread of EAB will be detrimental to our ash tree population, potentially killing millions of trees as it spreads across Texas,” said Gomez. “The devastation of our ash tree population will have an economic impact of billions of dollars, alter forest structure and composition and negatively affect the animal communities that rely on the tree species to survive.”

Once beetles that matched the description for EAB were detected in Morris and Rusk counties, the specimens were sent to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) lab for confirmation.

After confirmation from the lab, both counties were added to the list of Texas jurisdictions under quarantine by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). TDA quarantines are designed to slow the spread of the insect pest by restricting movement of any woody ash material leaving the quarantined area.

“Because EAB is transported unintentionally on firewood and wood products, the quarantine helps slow the beetle’s spread by restricting the movement of wood in and out of affected areas,” said Gomez.

Each year, Texas A&M Forest Service sets traps and monitors for the pest from late winter to early summer.

“Early detection of the beetle is the best way to stop the spread and avoid high ash mortality,” said Gomez. “This year, we deployed 500 traps across Central, East and North Texas with 45 of them collecting EAB.”

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Tree-Killing Beetle Spreads to More Texas Counties, Continued

All traps are being removed as EAB beetles only fly from April to June. Traps will be placed back in late winter of next year.

“As EAB spreads to new areas in Texas, it is important to recognize early signs and symptoms of attacked trees,” said Gomez.

While ash trees with low numbers of EAB often have few or no external symptoms, residents should look for signs of EAB among their ash trees for early detection. Symptoms typically include dead branches near the top of the tree, leafy shoots sprouting from the trunk, bark splits exposing S-shaped larval galleries, extensive woodpecker activity and D-shaped exit holes.



Communities and residents can find resources on identifying and managing EAB infestations and creating a community preparedness plan at <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/eab/>.

EAB photos and resources can be found at <http://ow.ly/LIji30lbBxz>.

View the statewide summary of potential impacts of EAB at <https://bit.ly/3zIJMcD>.

For information from TDA on EAB quarantines, visit <https://bit.ly/3INSIzV> or <https://bit.ly/3PzADlJ>.

To report EAB, call 1-866-322-4512.

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Market Report- March/April 2022

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/ Ton Difference	
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume		
Pine- Sawlogs	\$29.98/Ton	\$239.83/MBF	\$30.00/Ton	\$240.03/MBF	-1%	↓
Pine-Pulpwood	\$6.97/Ton	\$18.81/Cord	\$7.13/Ton	\$19.24/Cord	-14%	↓
Pine-Chip-n-saw	\$13.32/Ton	\$35.96/Cord	\$13.93/Ton	\$37.62/Cord	-5%	↓
Mixed Hardwood- Sawlogs	\$34.01/Ton	\$306.07/MBF	\$33.48/Ton	\$301.36/MBF	1%	↑
Hardwood- Pulpwood	\$7.56/Ton	\$21.17/Cord	\$8.35/Ton	\$23.37/Cord	-12%	↓

Texas Timber Price Trends is a bimonthly publication reporting average prices paid for standing timber in Texas. This report is intended only as a guide to general price levels. It should not be used to judge the fair market value of a specific timber sale, which may vary considerably due to many factors. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale or is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/timberpricetrends>.

Websites of Interest

TexasForestInfo.tamu.edu

Check out these FREE landowner tools that can assist you in making land management decisions on your property.

www.TexasForestry.org

Lobbying on various forestry and environmental issues that directly affect you, publishing and sponsoring educational events are just a few of many things that Texas Forestry Association does. Find out more about what Texas Forestry Association does for you and why you should be involved!

tfsweb.tamu.edu

Find a plethora of forest management resources and many people that can assist you in your forest management goals.

tpwd.texas.gov

Find out more information on wildlife management, hunting and fishing regulations and much more!

nrcs.usda.gov

Find out more information on natural resource conservation and federal programs in your area.

MyLandManagementConnector.com

Find and connect with service providers in your area to get assistance with land management practices on your property

Drought and Trees and Explained

Texas A&M Forest Service

Texas has already seen extreme heat and very little rain, with the trend predicted to continue.

The anticipation of drought can bring many thoughts to mind from water shortages to increased wildfire risk. But what do drought conditions mean for our trees?

Drought is defined by a relatively long duration with substantially below-normal precipitation, usually occurring over a large area, and Texas is no stranger to drought. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, in 2011, one of the state's worst drought years, more than 80% of Texas experienced exceptional drought conditions. This drought killed an estimated 300 million trees, 5.6 million being urban shade trees.

According to experts at Texas A&M Forest Service, tree fatalities occur during a drought because drought is a significant stress to trees.

What can stress a tree?

"A stress is anything that reduces the capacity of the tree to function efficiently and grow vigorously," said Karl Flocke, Texas A&M Forest Service woodland ecologist. "Stresses are things that can affect growth, nutrient uptake, the ability of the tree to photosynthesize and ultimately the ability of the tree to defend itself against environmental conditions and pathogens. These include excessive heat or cold, predation from animals, and insects and diseases – a number of different things."

Drought alone may not kill your trees, though it could be the tipping domino of tree mortality and should be cause for concern.

"Most trees usually die from a combination of different stresses," said Courtney Blevins, Texas A&M Forest Service urban forester. "One of the biggest stresses we see in Texas is drought. When that happens, stresses build up and secondary pests or diseases can establish in trees."

Secondary pests and diseases are those that attack a tree that is already stressed by something else, such as a drought or winter storm. Hypoxylon and most boring insects are considered secondary pests and diseases, with the exception of the emerald ash borer, which attacks both healthy and stressed ash trees.

Blevins said when a tree is already stressed these types of insects and diseases will increase — not only during the time of drought, but for years after a drought or other larganotheressor event has ended.

Drought-stressed trees

So, what happens to trees during a drought? Ultimately, the lack of water causes trees to photosynthesize less, or make less food, which leads to a lack of nutrients needed to survive.

“Plants generate their own food through photosynthesis, and one of the key components of photosynthesis is water,” said Flocke. “Water is necessary for the chemical reactions that create sugars. It’s also necessary to help move the needed materials around in the tree and, finally, to utilize those materials.”

Without water, a tree cannot generate sugars and cannot utilize those sugars necessary for tree growth. When this happens, trees will start to show physical symptoms from the lack of nutrients, usually through their leaves.

“The things to look for on your tree are leaves dropping or wilting, small or malformed leaves, yellowing of the leaves and browning tips of the leaves,” said Blevins. “Some species, like junipers, may totally brown out, losing all of their leaves.”

Just because leaves begin to fall from your tree, does not mean the tree is dead. For small trees, you can simply use your thumb nail and scrape some of the smaller twigs – if there is still green underneath, then the tree is not dead. Within a few weeks, it may leaf back out. If you are concerned your tree is dead, contact a certified arborist for a professional opinion.

Reducing tree stress

The most helpful way to reduce stress to your tree during drought conditions is to give supplemental water, though the amount and how often you water will depend on your specific tree and area.

“Watering is going to depend on the tree; the size, species and age of the tree as well as the soils you have in your area,” said Flocke. “If you have established trees that are well-adapted to your location, it’s very likely that they might not need supplemental water at all. But I would monitor them to look for signs of stress.”

If you begin to see signs of stress in your trees and the ground under your trees is extremely dry, it’s time to begin watering. To test the dryness of the soil, you can take a long screwdriver and stick it in the ground. If the screwdriver doesn’t go easily 6 to 8 inches into the soil, it’s time to water.

“Start by watering the area around the canopy of the tree,” said Flocke. “Not just at the base of the tree and not just around the edge of the dripline but water the entire area underneath the canopy of the tree until the point where you have water start pooling and running off the surface.”

A good guideline for the amount of water your tree needs is 2 to 3 gallons per 1 inch trunk diameter.

According to Blevins, a general rule of thumb for newly planted trees during the heat of the summer is to water them up to three times per week in the absence of precipitation. Though, you want to make sure the soil is not completely saturated with water at all times.

Larger, established trees may not need much water at all but extremely high temperatures and lack of precipitation may warrant watering them every couple of weeks.

When watering your trees, adhere to any water use restrictions you may have in your area and try to maximize the water you do give.

“The most important thing is to avoid watering during the heat of the day, because much more water is going to be lost in evaporation,” said Flocke. “Either early in the morning or later in the evening is the best time to water.”

An easy tip for watering trees during a drought is to try and mimic what a typical summer looks like for your trees, watering every 10 days to two weeks and knowing that it’s okay to not be on a set schedule – just like normal summer rain.

Another way you can help your trees manage drought stress is by mulching. Mulch is an easy and inexpensive option to help your trees because it conserves water, regulates soil temperatures, reduces competition from other plants and improves soil health.

"In general, apply a layer of mulch no more than 2 to 3 inches deep," said Flocke. "In reality, the entire area under the canopy could be mulched, but mulching out several feet around the base of the tree, being sure not to let the mulch touch the base of the trunk, will help."

Avoiding tree stress

During times of drought, be extremely cautious not to add additional stresses to your tree, making them more susceptible to secondary insects and diseases. First, do not prune your trees unless absolutely necessary.

"What you're trying to do is reduce stress to the tree, so pruning, even when you have to, is adding stress because you are wounding the tree," said Blevins. "If you're pruning out live branches or live leaf areas of the tree, you're removing food and the site where the tree's root growth hormone is developed, affecting root growth and further stressing the tree at a time when it's already too stressed."

According to Blevins, the exception to pruning trees during drought is a completely dead branch or one that is a hazard to its surroundings.

Another common mistake that can be harmful to your trees during a drought is putting out fertilizer.

"Just generally applying fertilizers without knowing if there is a deficiency is a really bad idea," said Blevins. "If there is not a nutrient deficiency then it's not going to help anything, and it can actually hurt things and make the tree worse."

During the summer heat, and especially when experiencing drought conditions, he suggested monitoring your trees for stress symptoms and adding supplemental water when necessary.

"Trees provide an enormous value to us in our landscape," said Flocke. "Keeping trees, especially near our homes, can help to reduce overall energy bills, keep us healthier and provide shade for the house. If we lose those trees, we potentially lose benefits that have taken decades to accumulate."

For additional information on caring for your trees during drought conditions, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/afterthestorm/Drought/>.

Protect Texas Prevent Wildfires

Many areas of Texas are experiencing extreme high temperatures, quickly drying out vegetation and increasing wildfire potential.

- ★ **Always check with local officials for outdoor burning restrictions in your area.**
- ★ **Be aware of current and expected weather conditions. Delay burning if the weather conditions are hot, dry, and windy.**
- ★ **Avoid parking or idling in tall, dry grass. Catalytic converters can ignite grass under the vehicle.**
- ★ **Many outdoor activities may produce sparks and ignite nearby vegetation including welding, grinding, and mowing.**

For more information,
please visit:
www.tfsweb.tamu.edu



Upcoming Events

Friday, August 12, 2022 from 10:00am-2:00pm Branching Out- A Seminar for Landowners- Location: Texas Forestry Association (1903 Atkinson Dr., Lufkin TX 75901)- For more information or to register for the event, visit <https://member.texasforestry.org/event/branchingoutseminar2022> .

Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 5:30pm TFA Regional Membership Meeting (North)- Location: Texarkana Convention Center (4610 Cowhorn Creek Rd, Texarkana, TX 75503)- For more information or to register for the event, visit <https://member.texasforestry.org/event/northeasttexasregionalmeeting>.

October 26-28, 2022 Texas Forestry Association 108th Annual Conference- Location: Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center (177 Joe Routt Blvd., College Station, TX 77840- For more information, visit <https://member.texasforestry.org/page/AnnualConference2022LandingPage> .

NETFLA Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Program

Many of you attended the July 15 SFI program at the Mount Pleasant Civic Center. There were 176 who signed the attendance sheets. Thank you for attending. I trust that you learned something about Best Management Practices, NRCS Technical and Financial Assistance programs that are available, Benefits of Carbon Credits, and/or Small Acreage Management Tools that will help you manage your forest property in the future.

Remember that the purpose of NETFLA and the Texas Forestry Association (TFA) is to encourage you to use sound management practices, and to keep you informed of issues that impact your forestry business.

Thank you, Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) for making this SFI Program happen. There are two TFS offices in our counties that will answer your questions and provide you assistance with your forest property. Since they are a state agency, there is no charge for their services. Kelby Wolf is Forester at the Pittsburg Office, 903-856-7181, and Tandy Wheeler is Forester at the Gilmer Office, 903-734-7007.

Sustainable Forestry Cycle



New Forest Thinning Stand Management Protection Harvest Planning New Forest

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NETFLA WEB SITE

www.netxforest.org

Texas Forestry Association Regional Membership Meeting

Thursday August 25, 2022, at the Texarkana Convention Center

You are invited to attend a TFA Regional Membership Meeting at the Texarkana Convention Center on Thursday, August 25. The purpose of the meeting is for networking with other forest landowners and Consultant Foresters, learning more about the Texas Forestry Association (TFA), and enjoy a reception and good food. This Regional TFA meeting will be in lieu of a NETFLA Third Quarter meeting.

The Reception is scheduled from 5:30 until 6:30 pm, and Dinner from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. There is no charge for this meeting. **Please RSVP for this meeting, though, on the member portal of the TFA website at texasforestry.org or by calling 936-632-8733 by August 22** to facilitate meal planning.

The address is: Texarkana Convention Center

4610 Cowhorn Creek Road

Texarkana, TX 75503

Future Programs:

The Board is considering program topics for a November meeting which include: pine seedling genetics and feral hogs. Please contact an Officer or your County Director if you have a topic that you would like addressed at this or a future meeting.

NETFLA Contact and Membership Dues Information

Thank you for your NETFLA membership. We hope that Newsletters, Programs and Meetings have provided you with useful information that has helped you manage your timber property. We encourage you to continue your membership. Membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2022, you can renew at the next meeting or mail your check to: **NETFLA, P.O. Box 343, Daingerfield, TX 75638-0343.**

Our records indicate that your 2022 Membership status is:

Renewed _____

Not Yet Renewed _____

Contact: Judy Weiss (903) 645-3782, or e-mail gjweiss@windstream.net

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