

## Purple traps are a cooperative effort to survey for emerald ash borer



Have you seen these purple traps hanging along New Hampshire's highways this summer? Purple prism traps resembling box kites are part of the national emerald ash borer (EAB) survey. The survey is conducted with help from state and private agencies.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the N.H. Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food are partnering with a natural resources company to survey for the EAB (*Agrilus planipennis*), the non-native, wood-boring beetle that has attacked and destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in 16 states.

This metallic, green beetle is native to Asia and is thought to have entered the country via wood packing-material. As of today, EAB has been detected in New Hampshire but has been found south of Montreal, Canada, in Albany County, New York and most recently in Prospect, Connecticut.

Early detection is critical to manage and control invasive pests. The purple traps are hung in ash trees in all 10 counties of New Hampshire. The traps don't lure the EAB into an area. They are detection tools to determine if the pest is currently present in the area. When EAB is detected early, there are 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. EABs are also attracted to the purple color of the trap. The traps are monitored throughout the summer and removed in the fall. The purple traps don't pose a threat to humans, pets, or wildlife; however, the glue is extremely sticky.

For more information about EAB or the survey program, contact the N.H. Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Division of Plant Industry at 271- 2561 or [www.agriculture.nh.gov](http://www.agriculture.nh.gov).

Upload pictures of any suspicious beetles to [this Cooperative Extension web site](#). Photos are reviewed by the Forest Health Specialists and posted in a photo gallery. An entomologist will respond with an email identifying the insect.

Find more information about EAB at [nhbugs.org](http://nhbugs.org) or contact your county [UNH Cooperative Extension office](#) or call 1-800-444-8978.

*Adapted from an article by Mark Michaelis, USDA APHIS, for the Weekly Market Bulletin.*