

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9th, 2018**

PRESENT: Eric Allen (Chair), Tamara Lesh (Vice Chair), Barry Fetterolf, Christy Cheever, Deirdre Alderfer, Hope Blaythorne, Christine Terranova (Administrator) and Kevin Morrissey (Liaison).

ABSENT: David Benner and Bob McMahon

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 10th, 2018

Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Hope Blaythorne, the meeting minutes for July 10th, 2018 were unanimously approved with corrections.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Hazardous Waste Collection Events – Township has posted on the website the Bucks County Household waste recycling program

Chair Allen announced the Bucks County Household Waste Recycling Program has been posted on the township website for the public's convenience.

Ms. Blaythorne announced that the Primrose Creek Watershed Association will hold their tenth anniversary membership meeting on Wednesday, October 24th at The Inn at Phillips Mill.

It was noted that the Spotted Lantern Fly species have been identified at the New Hope Solebury School campus.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Powerpoint Presentation regarding Ash and Walnut Tree Issues

Ms. Blaythorne introduced Heather Kerr/Forester on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry/William Penn State Forest.

Ms. Kerr presented a Power Point presentation on the current and on-going tree infestations occurring in our region including the Emerald Ash Borer and Thousand Cankers Disease (copies of the presentation are attached). The one hour presentation was informative with descriptions of the several top infestations. There did not seem to be any hopeful resolutions to the Ash tree issue once the tree is at least 30% infected, just removal. If less than 30% there are several chemical treatments that cost about \$250 annually for the life of the tree.

Karl Pettit, resident of Solebury Township, has twenty ash trees on his property and would like to get rid of all of the trees as quickly as possible.

Ms. Alderfer mentioned that there is a treatment available for the trees.

Ms. Kerr explained how the treatment is applied into the infested tree. She mentioned a website is available to help the public learn how to apply the treatment. She also suggested to use any fallen ash trees as firewood as one way to dispose of the wood.

It was noted that Bucks Beautiful is committed to planting 10,000 new trees in the area.

John Albertson, resident with Warrington Township, questioned if the Spotted Lanterns are infesting the maple trees.

Ms. Kerr did respond that the Spotted Lanterns will target the maple trees.

Ms. Kerr continued with her second presentation regarding the Thousand Cankers Disease which is only found on walnut trees by the twig beetle. It seems to be a slow-moving issue and if the twig beetle does not carry the fungus, then there is little concern.

B. Proposal for the Banning of Plastic Uses by Local Businesses – EAC to provide to the Board of Supervisors a comprehensive proposal for review

Liz Magill, member of the Lambertville Environmental Commission, Lambertville, New Jersey, spoke on behalf of an ordinance established by the City of Lambertville to ban plastic uses by local businesses. Ms. Magill stated the City has been receiving complaints on the use of plastic straws and plastic bags by the local businesses. Dry cleaning businesses would be excluded from the ordinance as well as bagging meats separately from other groceries would be excluded. The ordinance will take effect next

year. Currently, they are speaking to other local towns concerning the proper way to enforce the ordinance.

Ms. Blaythorne stated that any objections from business owners could lead to the business owner charging the buyer for the cost of their own bags.

Ms. Magill suggested to have a round table discussion with the local business owners while in the process of drafting the ordinance in addition to having a "grace period" once the ordinance is adopted in order for business owners to adjust to the ordinance. She stated that the entire process was relatively quick as the total time to complete the ordinance was approximately three months. The short timeframe relates to the concern for the New Jersey House to pass a bill banning such an ordinance. The New Jersey Governor eventually vetoed the bill.

It was suggested to visit a number of local businesses for feedback and ideas, to invite local businesses to a township meeting for a discussion and send letters to all businesses with a copy of the proposed plastic ban proposal and request a response. Ms. Magill mentioned she regretted her committee did not contact local businesses before implementing the ordinance.

It was agreed to contact the Township Manager to determine if there was a list of businesses. The next meeting will continue the topic of plastic banning.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Deer Management (Eric Allen and Bob McMahon)

Chair Allen was able to provide an update on the program with an email from Bob McMahon who was absent from the meeting. The Deer Management Committee met on September 28, 2018 and drafted a letter to be sent to the owners of the properties that have been identified as targets for inclusion in the program. The drafted letter included the following information:

- A healthy deer population here is defined as no more than 63 deer per square mile. When last measured (in 2017), our deer population was estimated at 146 per square mile – more than twice our goal.
- 10% of claims filed for deer-vehicle collisions in the U.S. are in Pennsylvania – with Bucks County being the second highest County in the State.
- Lyme Disease – Pennsylvania has led the nation in confirmed cases for the past three years.

- A federal/state commission report in 2015 estimated that deer cause \$100 million in damage to agricultural productivity.
- Overpopulation of deer causes decreased tree reproduction, understory vegetation, and plant density and diversification. This negatively impacts storm water management.

The township will mail the letters and then follow up with a phone call to the property owners.

Recycling (Christy Cheever, Tamara Lesh and Deirdre Alderfer)

It was noted that the combined waste and recycling stations were ordered and delivered to the middle school and high school.

Aquetong Spring Park (Barry Fetterolf and Kevin Morrissey)

Simone Collins presented a plan to the park committee and will review the same presentation with the supervisors. There are still grants available but have very specific requirements. Supervisor Mark Baum Baicker, Supervisor John Francis and the donors will meet to discuss future plans for the park/stream. The park committee will be meeting in the future to work on the stream rehabilitation.

Wild Area Stewardship

A. Riparian Buffer (Hope Blaythorne and Kevin Morrissey)

Ms. Blaythorne stated that Solebury School agreed to limit their grass mowing boundaries on the property.

It was noted to have a guest speaker regarding riparian buffer issues for early next year (January/February).

B. Diseased Trees (Eric Allen and Kevin Morrissey)

No discussion

C. Watershed Management (Hope Blaythorne)

No discussion

VI. Public Comment

No discussion

VII. Adjournment

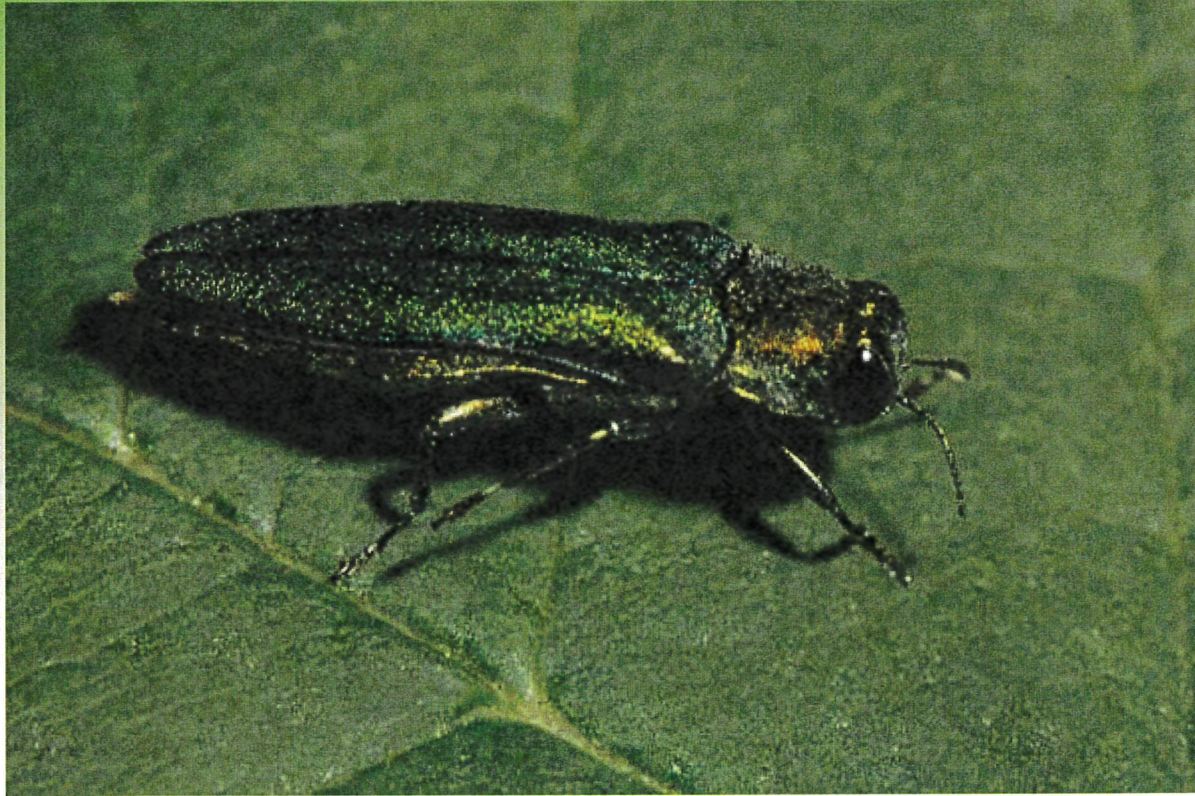
Upon a Motion by Deirdre Alderfer, seconded by Barry Fetterolf, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator

Emerald Ash Borer

Agrilus planipennis



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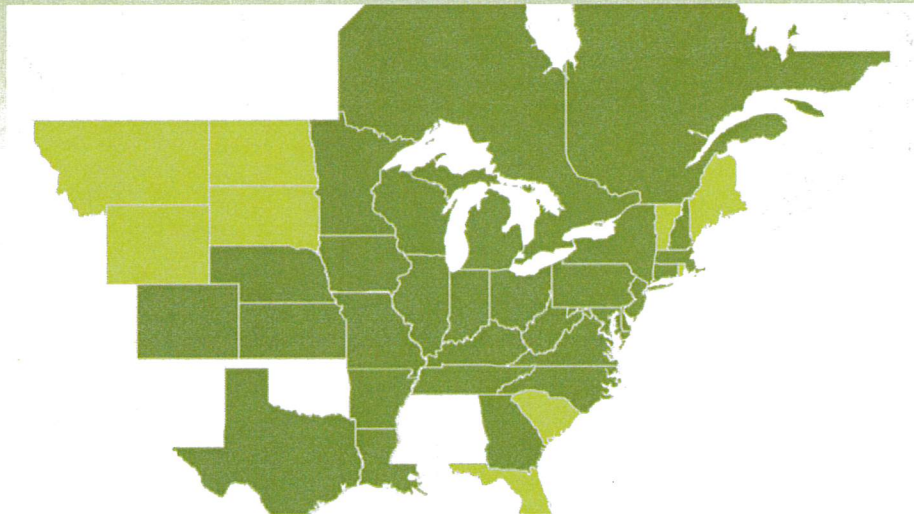


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History in the US

- First found in 2002 in Detroit, Michigan
- Came to USA from Asia on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes.
- Arrived in Pennsylvania in 2007 in North Park



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Since Discovery...

- Killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America
- Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries hundreds of millions of dollars
- Quarantines were established to prevent the insects spread
 - Logs and hardwood firewood were not allowed to be moved out of areas where EAB was detected
 - Most of insect spread from movement of firewood

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Life Stages

- Larvae
 - Creamy white, legless
 - Flattened, bell-shaped body segments
 - Terminal segment bears a pair of small appendages
 - Can reach 1 inch in length



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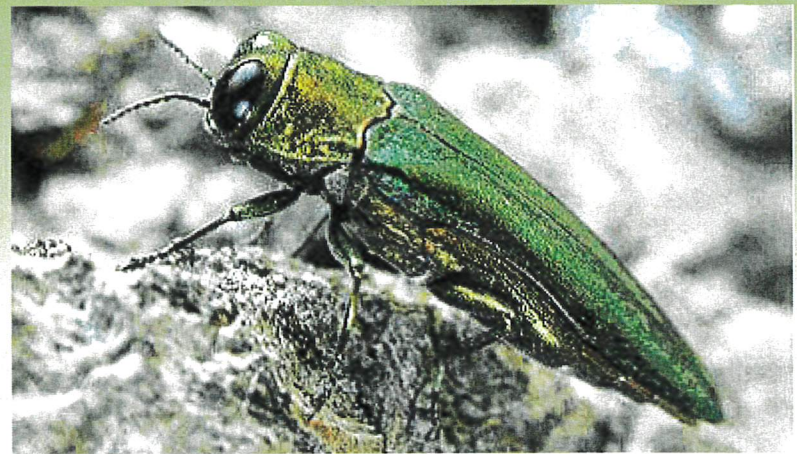


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Life Stages

- Adult
 - Bright metallic green
 - ½ inch long, flattened back
 - Purple abdominal segments beneath wing covers
 - Can fly ½ mile from host tree



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What does EAB do?

- Adult beetles lay eggs on the bark of ash trees. When the eggs hatch, the larvae (immature beetles) bore into the bark and feed on the transportation tissues (cambium) of the tree. This disrupts the movement of nutrients and water within the tree, girdling it and causing tree death

Signs and Symptoms

- Canopy dieback
 - Begins in top 1/3 of canopy
 - Progresses until tree is bare



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Signs and Symptoms

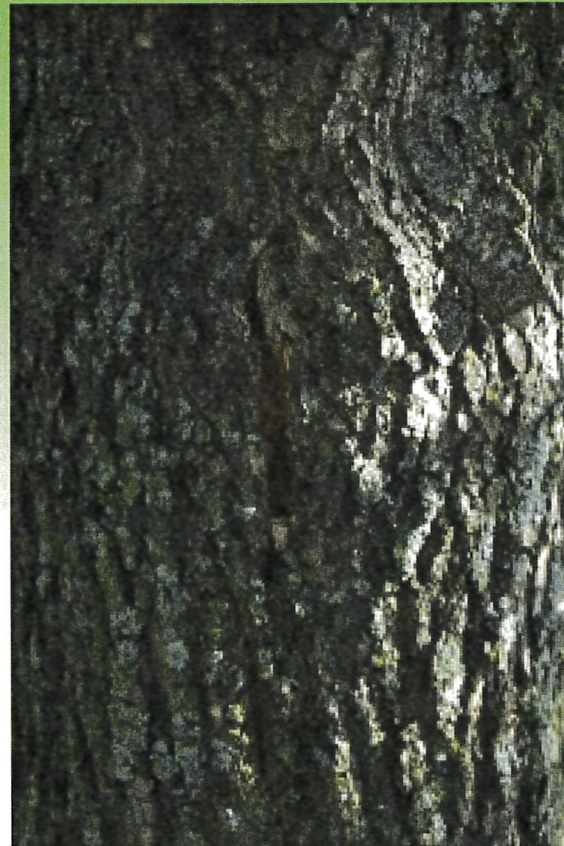
- Epicormic Shoots
 - Sprouts grow from roots and trunk
 - Leaves often larger than normal



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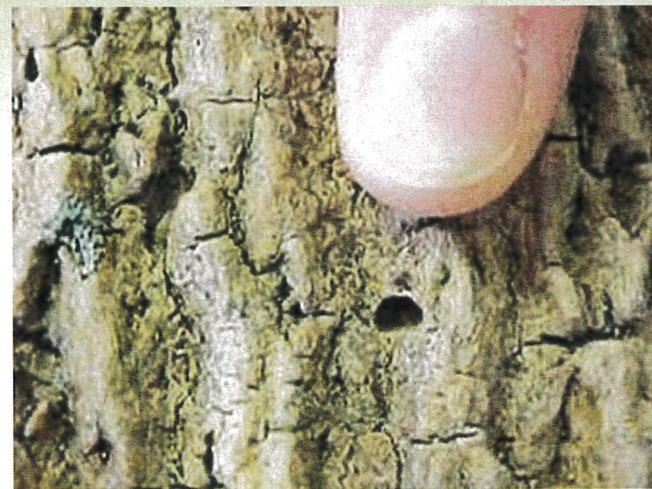
Signs and Symptoms

- Bark Splitting
 - Vertical fissures on bark due to callous tissue formation
 - Galleries exposed under bark split



Signs and Symptoms

- Serpentine Galleries and D-shaped Exit Holes
 - Larval Feeding galleries typically serpentine
 - Galleries weave back and forth across the woodgrain
 - Packed with frass (sawdust and excrement)
 - Adults form D-shaped holes upon emergence



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Signs and Symptoms

- Increased woodpecker activity/damage
 - Several Woodpecker species feed on EAB larvae/pupae
 - Peck outer bark while foraging
 - Create large holes when extracting insects



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Dead Ash Trees Are Dangerous

- EAB girdles underneath bark
- Water is not flowing through cambium
- Wood becomes dry and brittle
- Unsafe to climb

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Susceptible trees

- In North America, it has only been found in Ash trees
 - Trees as small as 1 inch have been infested by EAB
- Healthy, dying, and stressed trees are all susceptible
 - Dying and stressed trees are preferred for feeding
- After infestation, death can occur in 3-4 years

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Control

- Mechanical - Tree removal
 - Low cost if done before infested
- Chemical - Insecticide
 - Variety of methods
 - Costly and must be repeated
 - If the tree has 50% dieback, it is too late for any treatment
- Biological – Predatory native ground wasp (*Cerceris fumipennis*)
 - Solitary hunting wasp that preys on wood-boring buprestid beetles
 - Adult wasp catches and paralyzes a beetle with its stinger, carries it back to its nest, drags the beetle inside and then lays an egg on it
 - The egg hatches and larvae eats the beetle

Emerald Ash Borer Infestation in Pennsylvania



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Not Found 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016
2007 2009 2011 2013 2015

(62 out of 67 Counties infested by 09/15/ 2016)

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Questions???

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Thousand Cankers Disease



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History

- First discovered in western US in 1990's
- Since 2010 confirmed in: Tennessee, Virginia, Ohio and North Carolina
- Confirmed in Bucks County, PA 8/9/2011
- Both beetle and fungus confirmed in Chester County in 2014
- NOT established in PA to date

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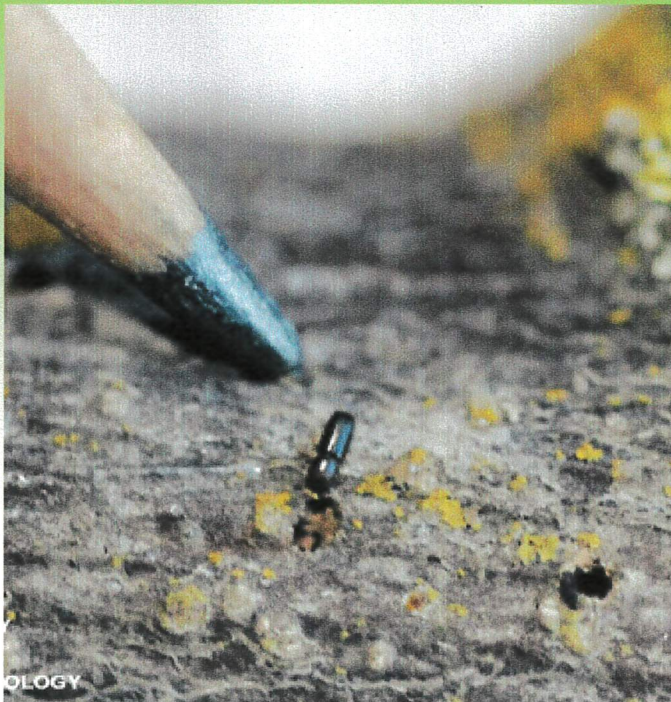
How it Kills

- Walnut Twig beetles carry fungus (*Geosmithia morbida*)
- Beetles tunnel beneath bark
- Fungal infection leads to canker formation
- Repeated beetle attacks & cankers disrupt flow of water & nutrients
- Twigs and branches eventually dieback
- Very slow moving

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Walnut Twig Beetle



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Signs and Symptoms

- Yellowing of leaves
- Foliage thinning in upper crown
- Evidence of the beetle
- Twig dieback
- Larger limbs are killed as the disease progresses
- Eventually the trunk will die ~10 years



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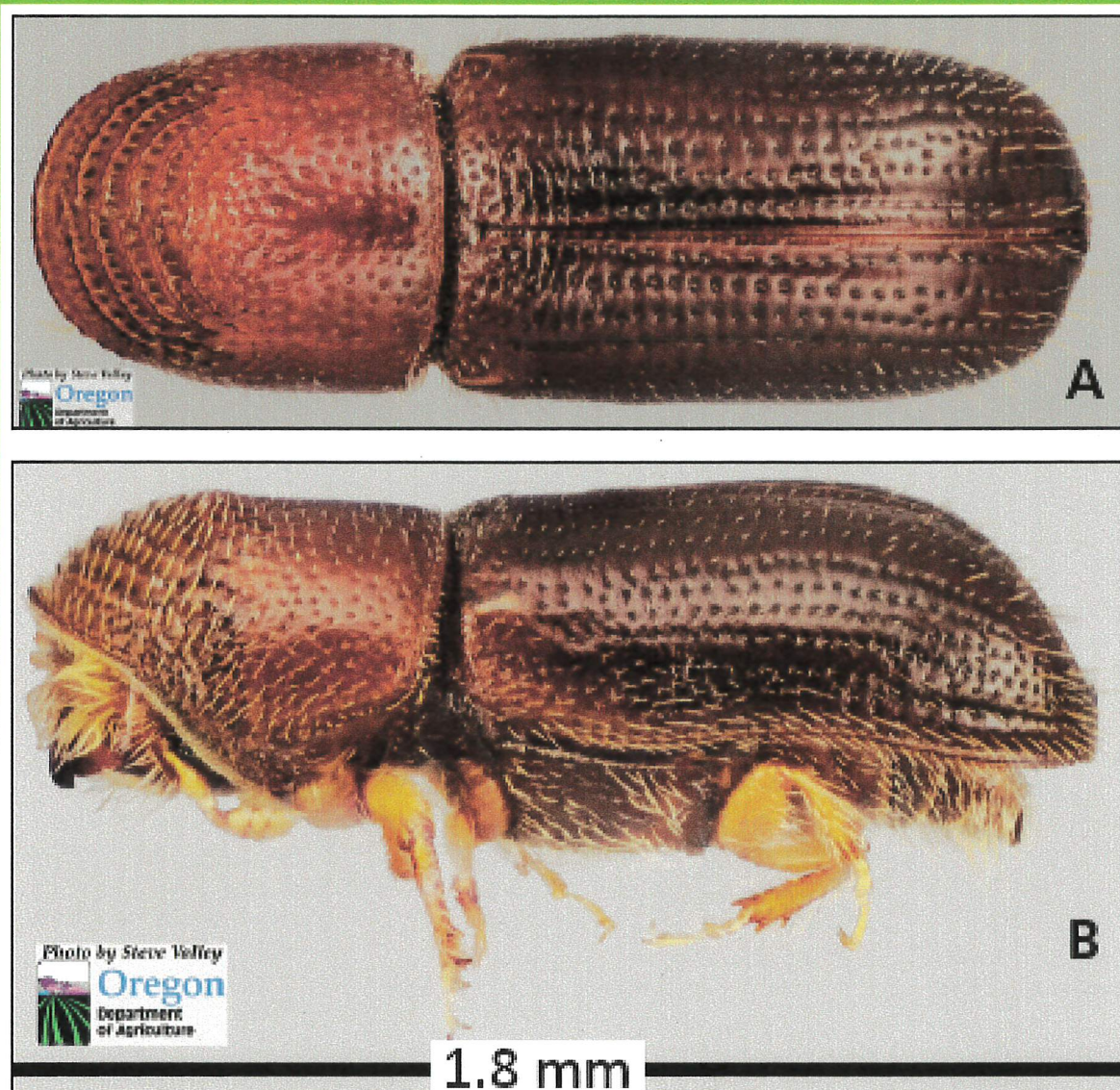




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Quarantine

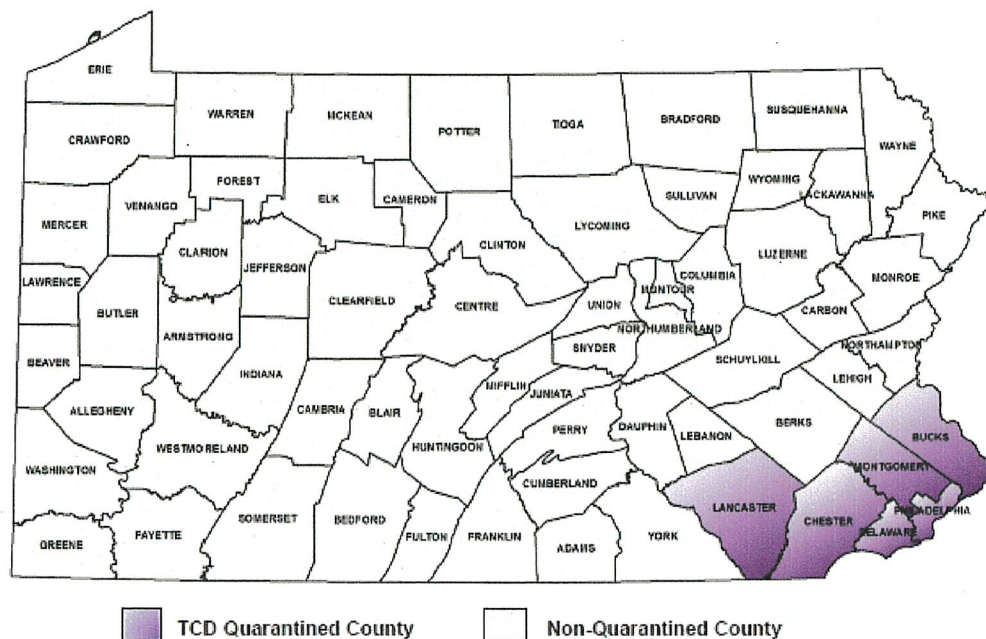
- Designed to slow the spread
- Restricted movement of all walnut material in Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, and Lancaster
- Violations can result in penalties up to 90 days in prison or up to \$20,000

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Current Quarantine

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Map of Counties
Quarantined for Thousand Cankers Disease as of November 01, 2014



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Questions?

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