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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week is May 23-29

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (May 24, 2010) – Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland has recognized May 23-29 to be Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week.

“Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week provides an opportunity for the state to join forces with business, industry, environmental groups, community organizations, tourists, citizens and schools to protect Ohio’s ash trees against the spread of this invasive pest,” said Strickland.

The invasive pest poses a threat to the state’s more than 3.8 billion ash trees and has been identified in 48 of the state’s 88 counties, with 19 additional counties considered to be at elevated risk. To slow the spread of the devastating insect, a state quarantine makes it illegal to move hardwood firewood and ash tree materials from these 67 quarantined counties into or through non-quarantined counties. A federal quarantine in place also makes it illegal to take hardwood firewood out of the state of Ohio without federal certification.

Ash trees infested with the beetle typically die within five years. This invasive pest belongs to a group of metallic-colored, wood-boring beetles. Adults are dark metallic green, one-half inch long, one-eighth inch wide, and fly from May until September. Larvae spend the rest of the year beneath the bark of ash trees, damaging the trees’ water and nutrient-transporting tissues. When the larvae emerge as adults, they leave behind one-eighth inch D-shaped exit holes in the bark.

Emerald Ash Borer Week, designated each May, is part of a regional effort to raise awareness of the environmental, social and economic impacts of this pest.

For more information, call 1-888-OHIO-EAB or visit www.agri.ohio.gov.

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