Exploring New Lures for North Dakota's EAB Trapping Program

New lures for tree-damaging Emerald Ash Borers (EAB), created from EAB sex pheromones are being tested in North Dakota. Various North Dakota agencies are baiting traps with these revolutionary lures to prevent the destruction of the state’s ash trees. Large cities and state parks are primary targets throughout the state for these traps.

According to NDSU Extension Forester, Joe Zeleznik, EABs are an invasive species whose larvae can kill a tree in 3-4 years. EAB larvae can devastate an entire population of ash trees in about 7 years. Traps help prevent adult insects from laying eggs and will be a major way of discovering if EABs spread into the state.

No populations of this insect have been identified in North Dakota but traps are a proactive approach to prevent infestation. If trees infected with EAB larvae are identified in the early stages of decline various chemicals have been very effective for killing these bugs.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the North Dakota Forestry Service, and the NDSU Extension Service have teamed up with the U.S. federal government to develop this program. Over 400 EAB traps are currently set around North Dakota. Traps containing new lures will not replace those already set.

EABs do not fly well and are transported by the movement of infected wood. Ash firewood and lumber are the most common transporters of this dangerous insect. Signs of EABs or their larvae should be reported to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the North Dakota Forestry Service, or NDSU Extension Service.

Need more about the sex pheromone lure.