

## OF POTENTIAL INTEREST

# Chinese beetle considered threat to trees found in Baltimore port shipment

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-beetle-port-20141119-story.html>

By Kevin Rector Baltimore Sun (MD), 111914

A beetle species native to Asia and considered a threat to U.S. forests was discovered in the Baltimore region for the first time last month, during an inspection of a Chinese shipping container at the port of Baltimore.

The "longhorn" beetle species, known scientifically as *Xylotrechus rufilius*, is known to attack a wide range of orchard, forest and landscaping trees by boring holes in their trunks, eventually killing them, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Kevin Rector, a USDA entomologist identified the beetle last week. It was first spotted on Halloween in a container of ceramic tiles from China at the Baltimore Centralized Examination Station near the port by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspector.

"CBP agriculture specialists are very good at detecting foreign invasive plants and plant pests," said Dianna Bowman, the agency's Baltimore port director, in a statement.

The tile shipment was bound for Eldersburg, but will instead be "re-exported" given the discovery of the beetle, the agency said.

Across the country, CBP inspectors intercept about 440 insect pests a day, the agency said.



*Xylotrechus rufilius*, a type of longhorn beetle. Handout photo courtesy U.S. Department of Homeland Security

# MICHIGAN

## **Emerald Ash Borer Attacks 9,000 trees on GRCA Land**

<http://uncovermichigan.com/content/21970-emerald-ash-borer-attacks-9000-trees-grca-land>

by Carol Bailey FOR Uncover Michigan, Thu, 11/20/2014 - 11:46

Around 9,000 trees on Grand River Conservation Authority property have been infected by the emerald ash borer. It is said that there are many more trees that are likely to be infected as the Canadian watershed management agency has stated that there is still plenty of GRCA-managed properties that are yet to be checked. This watershed management agency oversees a 300 kilometer stretch of southwestern Ontario.

The alarming part is that all most of these infected trees reside in what the GRCA terms as high-risk locations i.e. spots near roads, buildings, power lines or campsites.

The emerald ash borer is a green beetle native to Asia and Eastern Russia. Outside its native region, the emerald ash borer is an invasive species and emerald ash borer infestation is highly destructive to ash trees. It was first discovered in America in June 2002 in Michigan. It was accidentally brought to America in the ash wood, which was used to stabilize crates when shipping.

The beetle of this invasive insect species does catastrophic damage to ash trees by burrowing beneath its bark to lay its eggs. Damage occurs in the infested trees due to larval feeding. Civic officials in Kitchener have set aside \$11 million to replace 5,000 ash borer-infested trees by 2022. This is being done as a lot of forest technologists have advised that replacing trees is really the only way to deal with the pest's spread.

Further the GRCA has formulated 10-year plan to deal with their ash borer problem. This plan calls for \$8 million to be spent to both take down infested trees and treat others with chemicals. About this plan, Adam Buitendyk, a city forest technologist, said, "It's been proven that quarantine measures aren't working. It's a very expensive process, so we've only picked a couple of hundred trees we're doing that on".

# MINNESOTA

## Stearns offering long-term alternative to snow fence

<http://www.sctimes.com/story/sports/outdoors/2014/11/19/stearns-offering-long-term-alternative-snow-fence/19298871/>

### Children plant green legacy for Arbor Day. (Photo: Times photo)

David Brakke St. Cloud Times (MN), 6:35 p.m. CST November 19, 2014

CLEARWATER – Clearwater-area resident Patricia Phillips is growing a forest in her backyard.

Two years ago she moved to a 2-acre lot off Sherburne County Road 44 and wanted to replace the trees on the property.

"I have a lot of woods around me and it seemed like the trees were really old and aging," she said.

Phillips says she's planting mostly cedar and spruce — tree varieties that hold their foliage through winter.

Friday she placed an order with the Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District. The department is now taking orders for their spring tree sale.

The trees are bare root and bundled in groups of 25. Orders start at a minimum of 50 trees.

"The reason we have people order so many is because we don't want to compete with private nurseries," said SWCD administrative assistant Lori Persson. "So if they just want a few, we suggest going to a nursery."

Persson says the trees are best used for conservation, allowing property owners to grow their own windbreaks, shelterbelts and living snow fences.

She says there are also a number of nut and fruit tree varieties available, which will aid wildlife once they mature. Phillips says that was something she planned for her forest as well.

"I have deer and turkey in the area, so we planted some cranberry and plum," she said. "I want them to come see me."

Tree orders can be made in the SWCD office in Waite Park. Persson says the trees will be delivered around the first week of May.

For more information visit: <http://www.stearnscountyswcd.net/>

