The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

123 HUNTINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 1106, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06504

Putting Science to Work for Society
Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment

Founded 1875

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Dear Town Official,

The USDA, the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) are collaborating to educate the public and state municipalities, regarding four invasive pests that are threatening the health of our forests and neighborhood trees. This collaborative outreach project encompasses the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), the Gypsy Moth, and the Winter Moth.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle attacks many tree species, with the Sugar Maple being a favored host. This insect infestation will result in the death of the trees. ALB was first discovered in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1996. In 2008, an infestation in Worcester, MA resulted in the removal of over 27,000 trees. ALB was again found, in Boston, MA, in 2010. ALB has not yet been detected in CT. One goal of this forest pest outreach project is to notify as many people as possible about the potential for its appearance, and the potential for devastating consequences to our Connecticut trees.

The Emerald Ash Borer was first detected in western CT in 2012. It continues to spread eastward throughout the state. The infestation of EAB is limited to Ash trees, resulting in the death of the tree. Since EAB is present in our state, the aim of this outreach project is to educate both public and private individuals as to the options regarding pre-infestation treatment or removal of ash trees. Both options are economically costly. But, considering the presence of EAB and its rate of spread across CT, all cities/towns and property owners, with ash trees on their lands, will need to deal with the lethal effect of this pest.

The Gypsy Moth is an invasive species that was first detected in CT in 1905, and had spread to all 169 towns by 1952. While Oak is the favored host species, Gypsy Moth does attack other tree species. In 1981, 1.5 million acres were defoliated in CT. Most recently, outbreaks in 2015 & 2016 have occurred, resulting in defoliation of large areas in the state.

Another invasive moth, the Winter Moth, causes early defoliation in warmer, coastal areas of CT. As with the Gypsy Moth, outbreaks of Winter Moth occurred in 2015 & 2016. Many different deciduous tree species are susceptible to this pest. This outreach project hopes to educate people regarding the presence of these pests, and what can be done to mitigate their damage to our forest and landscape trees.

In an attempt to reach as many people as possible, we request that you display the enclosed materials in your town hall, and share this information with any interested individuals. The enclosed materials include Fact Sheets on ALB, EAB, and Gypsy Moth, Pest Alert for Winter Moth, an EAB distribution map, a DO NOT MOVE FIREWOOD poster, and ALB & EAB Insect ID cards. Also included is contact information for Katherine Dugas, CAES, CAPS State Survey Coordinator.

For more information on these and other forest pests, please go to the following websites: www.ct.gov/caes/eab and www.ct.gov/deep/eab.
Please feel free to contact either Ms. Dugas or myself in the event of any questions, or to request additional copies of materials.

Yours Truly,

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