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Use of Scent Dogs to Detect the Emerald Ash Borer

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The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is a non-native, invasive wood-boring beetle believed to have been introduced into Michigan through wood packing material from Asia. The beetle larvae feed in a serpentine motion in the cambial tissues of ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) resulting in 100% fatality of infested trees within two years. The ash is a common tree used in metropolitan street plantings and the resulting devastation caused by the Emerald Ash Borer has already caused millions of dollars of losses to communities, nurseries, and the forestry industry. Early detection of the beetle is vital to prevent further spread of infestation to healthy trees. The use of scent-discriminating dogs to detect infestations before a tree exhibits signs of decline could provide a significant reduction in the loss of the ash tree population and may be a non-invasive, efficient and economically feasible method to locate infested trees in both urban and rural environments.