

# The Conference in 2018: "Preparing Europe for invasion by the beetles emerald ash borer and bronze birch borer"

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EPPO – FAO-REUFIS – BFW Conference

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Organized by Hugh Evans,  
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**Conference: Preparing Europe for invasion  
by the beetles emerald ash borer and bronze  
birch borer, two major tree-killing pests**

October 1-4, 2018  
Vienna, Austria

**Abstracts**



83 experts from research organizations, plant protection services and administration, representing 27 countries

- Excellent overview of the situation with EAB and BBB in North America and in European Russia, recent developments in their management
- Very fast spread of EAB assisted by human transportation activities, detrimental impact on the highly susceptible ash species, difficulty of early detection



- Latest results from research on optimized trapping systems; traps and lures had been developed for EAB
- Optimized surveillance methods and planning, detection dogs, chemical control (stem injections), implementation of classical biological control programs
- Socio-economic aspects of EAB, importance of engaging with the public to reduce human assisted spreading of the pest and to increase acceptance of phytosanitary measures



# Presented methods for surveillance and control

Green traps (540 nm) – sticky prism or multifunnel  
Kairomone-pheromone lure: (3Z)-hexenol + (3Z)-Lactone  
(trap placement of high importance)

Girdled trap trees

Branch sampling

Detection dogs (first results)

Keeping trees alive for longer time:  
emamectine benzoate stem injections

Classical biological control: inoculative  
releases of specific parasitoids

# Take home messages for Europe from the conference

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**Conclusion at the conference in 2018:** Effective early detection and response must be achieved in Europe as eradication of the pests will be impossible once local populations establish

## Identified important tasks

- Development of intensive risk-based surveillance programs using traps and trap trees
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis of potential pathways for introduction and spread in Europe as basis for risk-based surveillance
- Development of control methods (chemical and biological control)
- Inform plant protection experts
- Raising public awareness before EAB or BBB arrive in EU

## Developing a European Toolbox to manage potential invasion by emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) and bronze birch borer (*Agrilus anxius*), important pests of ash and birch

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**Prevention** (Pathway management, physical removal)

**Awareness campaigns**

**Chemical insecticide interventions**  
(testing/registration: emamectine benzoate, azadirachtin)

**Surveillance** (methods, pathway analysis, etc.)

**Contingency planning**

**BioControl** (assess native *Spathius polonicus*, East Asian and North American parasitoids)