



March, 2005

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Rose Lake Plant
Materials Center
7472 Stoll Rd.
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Dear Conservation Partner and Seed Collector:

Due to the devastating invasion of the introduced pest **Emerald Ash Borer**, *Fraxinus*, spp., Ash Trees in the Great Lakes Region are disappearing in record numbers and potentially from the landscape as we know it. Because of this potential disaster, a non-funded Cooperative Agreement has been entered into between the United State Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center.

Through this agreement, Ash seed collected from across the Great Lakes Region will be stored at the National Center for Genetic Resource Preservation Center in Ft. Collins, CO for future use. Our goal is to secure seed over the next several years through voluntary seed collections that will afford future generations the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate Ash trees.

We are seeking your help with collecting Ash seed. We need people across the Great Lakes Region to identify and mark Ash trees during the spring and summer months and then return in the fall to collect seed. The following are the four Ash species in jeopardy throughout this region: *Fraxinus nigra* Marsh. **Black Ash**, *Fraxinus quadrangulata* **Blue Ash**, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Marsh. **Green Ash**, and *Fraxinus Americana* L. **White Ash**.

Accompanying this letter is a packet of information including: identification materials for the different Ash trees, maps, collection forms, and information on processing and handling the seed.

Your assistance with this effort is extremely important and very much appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center at (517) 641-6300 or the Plant Materials Specialist at (517) 641-7831. You may also contact John Leif, Plant Materials Center Manager at john.leif@mi.usda.gov or Dave Burgdorf, Plant Materials Specialist at dave.burgdorf@mi.usdagov.

Thanking you in advance for your dedication, concern and assistance in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

John A. Bricker
State Conservationist



The Natural Resources Conservation Service works in partnership with the American people to conserve and sustain natural resources on private lands.

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