

## Questions and Answers: Release and Recovery of Biological Control for Emerald Ash Borer

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and our partners release tiny stingless wasps as biological control agents to help manage emerald ash borer (EAB) populations in infested areas. This includes trapping to see if the wasps have established themselves in these areas. Biocontrol partners should follow the [EAB Biological Control Release and Recovery Guidelines](#) at [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/eab](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/eab).

The following is a quick reference for biocontrol partners on key aspects of this work.

### Release Timing

#### When and how do I get the wasps?

Once we approve your release site, track the degree days to determine the best time for releasing wasps. Degree days are the number of sequential days that temperatures are high enough for EAB life cycle stages in your area. You can find degree days in the EAB interactive map at [www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/plant-health/eab-map](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/plant-health/eab-map).

As your area approaches the appropriate degree days, communication will begin between us for when the wasps will be shipped. We typically begin shipping wasps to partners in early May to start the release season. The wasps are shipped by overnight delivery in a cardboard box and should arrive by 10:30 a.m. at most locations.

#### When do I release them?

You should release all wasps the same day you receive them. If needed, you can store the shipment in a cool place out of the sun for 1 extra day with little impact to the wasps.

If you won't be able to release the wasps on the same day they arrive, arrange for a different shipping date by calling 1-810-844-2708.

If you need to release the wasps at different times than those in the [guidelines](#), contact us at [eab.biocontrol.program@usda.gov](mailto:eab.biocontrol.program@usda.gov).



*Biocontrol delivery container*

### Data Management

#### Where do I report my data?

We use an online database called MapBioControl. It stores detailed information on where wasps are released and recovered, including when, how, under what conditions, and how many. There is also a MapBioControl app currently available for iPads and iPhones that can be synchronized to the website.

#### How can I access MapBioControl?

To access the database, visit [www.mapbiocontrol.org](http://www.mapbiocontrol.org) and click on any tab to create an account.

If you have questions about MapBioControl, send an email to [info@assets.msu.edu](mailto:info@assets.msu.edu).

#### Do I need to enter both release and recovery data?

Yes. You must enter both the release and recovery data into MapBioControl. Please also enter data for trapping locations where wasps were not recovered. This information helps us monitor and evaluate the establishment of wasps and their impact on EAB populations throughout the United States.

#### When do I need to enter the data?

You must enter release data into MapBioControl within 48 hours of releasing wasps. Recovery data should be entered as soon as possible after trapping.

Having timely, accurate data is critical to the success of our biological control work. It tells us where releases and establishments are happening so we can best target our efforts.

## Recovery Trapping

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### How often do I conduct recovery trapping work?

You must do recovery trapping in at least one release site per county for 2 years. If you don't recover anything during that time, consider additional release or recovery efforts.

### What do I do with the recovery samples?

First, process or sort the specimens found in recovery samples at your location. You can find more information on the trapping process and species identification in the guidelines. Then, send any suspect biocontrol agents that resemble the released wasps to APHIS for identification:

USDA APHIS  
Attention: Juli Gould  
1398 West Truck Road  
Buzzards Bay, MA 02542

If you have questions, call APHIS Entomologist Juli Gould at 508-563-0923. If you need adult parasitoid samples to help with sample identification, email us at [eab.biocontrol.program@usda.gov](mailto:eab.biocontrol.program@usda.gov).

## For More Information

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### What if I need to speak to someone urgently?

Please call the Release Coordinator, Scott Whitehead, at 810-844-2708 or the Facility Manager, Ben Slager, at 810-844-2704.

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