

FINNISH FOOD AUTHORITY

Ruokavirasto • Livsmedelsverket



Agrilus planipennis - preparedness of Finland for its possible arrival

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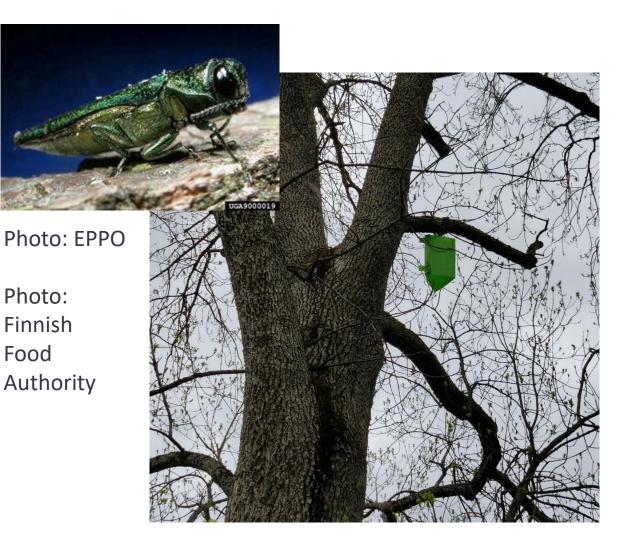
EPPO webinar 'Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in the EPPO region: preparedness of countries for its further spread'.

December 5th, 2024



Emerald Ash Borer EAB, Agrilus planipennis

- **<u>Priority</u>** pest harmful to ashes
- Listed in <u>Commission delegated</u> regulation (EU) 2019/1702
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/434
- A union quarantine pest of specific importance:
 - Each member state has to survey the pest every year
 - Each member state shall draw up a contingency plan and carry out simulation exercises





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Surveys of Agrilus planipennis



Surveys of EAB in Finland

- First surveys in 2016
- No positive findings
- Host trees:
 - Fraxinus sp. found in Finland
 - Chionanthus virginicus not found in Finland
 - Ash species grow in cities/parks, and in forests
 - They spread in the wild
 - They are to a notable degree of cultivated origin
- Trapping
 - Green prism sticky traps and
 - Green funnel traps
 - with pheromone and leaf volatile lures
 - In risky sites



Photo: Finnish Food Authority



Pathways: Southeastern area of Finland

- A. planipennis reaches Finland
- The closest outbreak area is situated in <u>St. Petersburg</u>,
- 130 kilometres from the border of Finland and the EU.
 - If less than 100 km -> buffer zone with restrictions required in Finland.
- We conduct intensive surveys to stop the pest at the border.

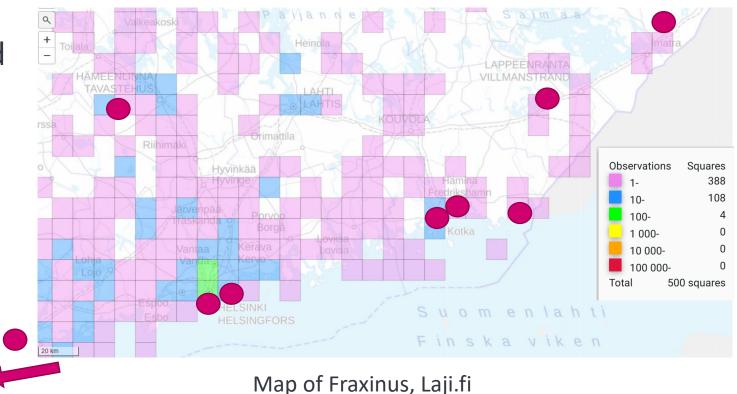


Dmitry L. Musolin, Andrey V. Selikhovkin, Elena Y. Peregudova, Boris G. Popovichev, Michail Y. Mandelshtam, Yuri N. Baranchikov and Rimvys Vasaitis 2021: North-Westward Expansion of the Invasive Range of EmeraldAsh Borer, Agrilus planipennis Fairmaire (Coleoptera:Buprestidae) towards the EU: From Moscow to Saint Petersburg. Forests 12(4):502 DOI: 10.3390/f12040502



Intensive surveys in Southeastern area 2021-

- Luckily, not many host trees grow in southeastern Finland
- About 30 traps / year in Finland
- Southeastern Finland
 - Imatra and Virolahti parks
 - Lappeenranta/Taipalsaari parks
 - Kotka and Hamina seaports
- Southern Finland
 - Helsinki: Helsinki airport, Vuosaari Seaport/Suomenlinna Fortress
- Southwestern Finland
 - Naantali wood storage area
 - Parks in Häme area

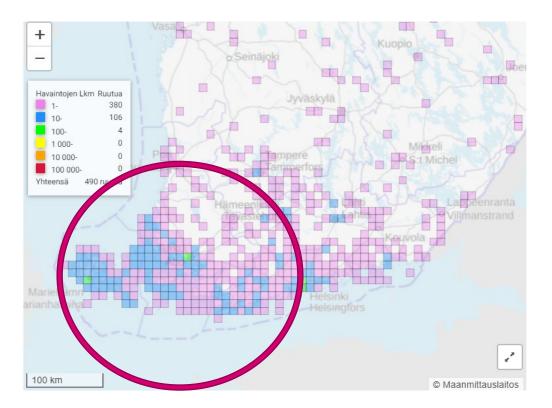


Trap



Fraxinus distribution in Finland

- Based on national data (Finnish Biodivesity Info Facility <u>Laji.fi</u> ->):
- Not in northern Finland
- Fraxinus excelsior the one and only native host tree - (about 4300 findings, all Fraxinus 4800) grows mainly in southwestern Finland
- This may slow the spread as well as short summer and low degree sum
- Area covered by ash species is not known
- About 500 10x10 km squares with at least 1 tree
- Non-native Fraxinus species: americana, chinensis, mandshurica, nigra, omus, pennsylvanica (most abundant)



Fraxinus excelsior (NT = Near Threatened) Distribution in southern Finland <u>https://laji.fi/en/observation/map?target=MX.39331</u>



Difficulties in the surveys

- Finding of target host trees
 - No official national distribution data available
 - Trees may also grow in private gardens
 - Long distances
- Identification of tree species
 - One should see the buds or leaves
- Traps should be placed high (EFSA 2020)
 - Climbing skills are valued
- Identification of risky sites
 - Movement of people and goods



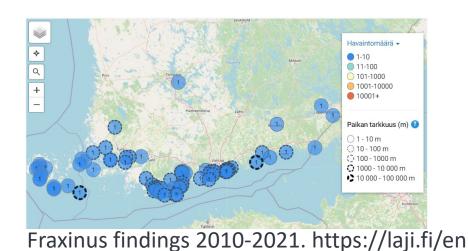
Photos: Finnish Food Authority

Why campaign #bongaasaarni?



• Because

- EAB is a quarantine pest harmful to ashes that may spread from Russia into EU
- Closest finding in St. Petersburg
- Surveys with pheromone traps
- Locations of the host trees is essential to know







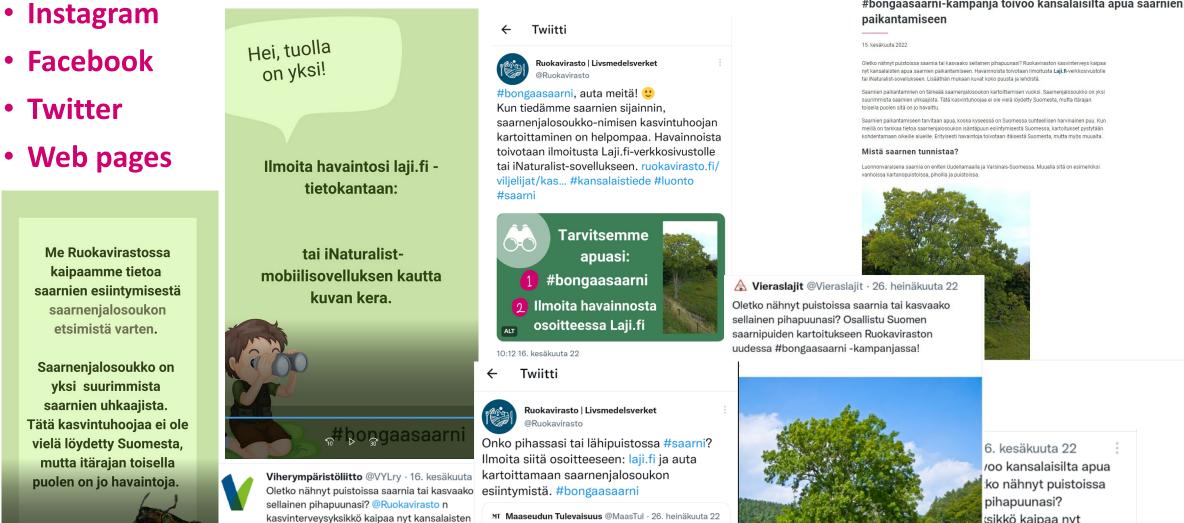
Implementation of the campaign #bongaasaarni

Finnish Food Authority asked citizens for observations on ashes

saarnien paikantamiseen <a>epressi.com/tied

puu... #bongaasaarni #saarnenjalosoukko #s

#kasvintuhoojat



#bongaasaarn

MT Maaseudun Tulevaisuus @MaasTul · 26. heinäkuuta 22 Ruokavirasto kerää havaintoja saarnista vierastuholaisen kartoittamiseksi - Saarnenjalosoukko leviää Pietarista käsin zpr.io/dSf9UFgS36VX

#bongaasaarni-kampanja toivoo kansalaisilta apua saarnien



sikkö kaipaa nyt ikantamiseen. (guA8JNKHf5S



How we succeeded: #bongaasaarni



- One article in the newspaper Helsingin Sanomat
- Two radio interviews in national media
- Lots of visibility on social media
- We got hundreds of new observations of ashes in Laji.fi!

Helsinki | HS Helsinki

Suomenlinnassa ollaan valmiita tekemään mitä tahansa, ettei pieni mutta tehokas tuholainen turmelisi saaren perintöä

Saarnenjalosoukon toukat syövät kuoren alle käytäviä, jotka voivat tappaa puun.



Saarnen jalosoukon toukat tappavat saarne ja syömällä niiden runkoon laajoja käytäviä. Kuvassa on aikuinen yksilö. KUVA: RUOKAVIRASTO

Tuomo Väliaho HS 10.6.2022 14:01

Havainnot vu	uosittain Suomessa	
Kuvaaja esittää hav	valintojen ajallista jakaumaa, joka ei ole zama asia kuin lajin runsastuminen/väheneminen.	
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Vieraslajit

Venäjällä tavattu tuholaishyönteinen uhkaa levitä myös Suomeen – Suomenlinnaan on asennettu pyydyksiä vieraslajin leviämisen varalta

Ruokavirasto asensi ansoja Suomenlinnaan saarnenjalosoukkojen leviämisen varalta. Tuholaiset voivat levitä maasta toiseen tavaroiden kuljetukseen käytettyjen puulavojen mukana.

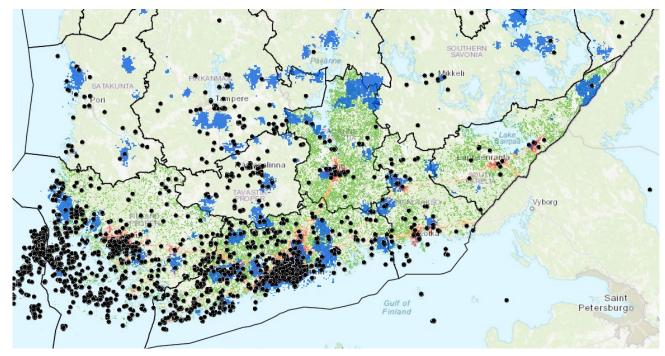


Ruokaviraston ylitarkastaja Liisa Vihervuori ja tarkastaja Hanne Rajanen asensivat Suomenlinnan hoitokunnan kanssa kolmionmuotoisen ansan puuhun. Kuva: Katri Tihilä / Yle

How the information obtained from the campaign is utilized



- Risk map for EAB
 - Entry points, high risk (red dots in darker green regions)
 - Old host tree data (blue dots), New observations (black dots) on <u>Laji.fi</u> (Finnish Biodiversity Info Facility) after the outset of the campaign



https://ruokavirasto.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=aab515e6bf58463383f00c16f3a82221



Surveys of EAB in Finland 2016-

- No EAB found
- Found species: domestic *Agrilus betuleti, Hylesinus* scolytids and *Tomostethus* sawflies in weakened trees.
- Also ash dieback *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* occurs in Finland.
- Damages caused by *Hylesinus* and *Tomostethus* resembles damages caused by EAB
- but only EAB forms D-shaped exit holes.
- Future: Continue awareness raising and cooperation with cities, horticultural sector, scientists etc.



Fraxinus in the fortress of Suomenlinna, Helsinki (Unesco world heritage site). Photo: Finnish Food Authority



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Contingency plan of *A. planipennis*



Contingency plan, draft

- Combination of a general plan and a species specific Annex for EAB
- In general plan
 - Legal basis
 - Establishment of an emergency group
 - Functioning of competent authorities
 - Decision making processes
 - Protocols and actions
 - Possible administrative and practical obstacles including environmental and nature legislation



Photo: Finnish Food Authority



Species specific Annex for Agrilus planipennis, draft

- Introduction
 - Legislation, Biology
 - Pathways and probability of invasion
 - Probability and effects of establishment
 - Special considerations related to *A.* planipennis
- Prevention of spread
 - Eradication measures of plants/wood
 - Temporary marketing ban
 - Tracing, traces back and recall
- Demarcation of areas
 - Delimiting survey
 - Monitoring of demarcated area
- Intensive survey program



Eradication measures of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in 2015 in Vantaa, Finland. Photos: Finnish Food Authority



Thank you!

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