

**Mulch Sampling Protocol**  
**Size Requirements and Screening Procedure for Hardwood Mulch and Chips in the**  
**Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Area**

The following procedure should be followed to determine if hardwood and bark chips, nuggets, and mulch materials can be considered safe for movement from the emerald ash borer quarantine area:

Step 1. Using a 12 inch diameter 3.25 inch deep sieve with 1.25 inch steel mesh openings (Fisher Scientific #04-884-1J) take 10 samples from random locations in the chip or mulch pile - - do not take all samples from the same location. If any chips are found that are greater than 2.5 inches in two dimensions the pile is rejected. If there are no chips found greater than 2.5 inches in two dimensions then proceed to Step 2.

Step 2. If four or more chips from the 10 samples do not pass through the sieve proceed to Step 3. If three or fewer chips from the 10 samples do not pass through the sieve, then the pile passes and can be moved.

Step 3. Resample. Take 10 additional samples from random locations in the chip pile. If any chips are found that are greater than 2.5 inches in two dimensions the pile is rejected. If there are no chips found greater than 2.5 inches then proceed to Step 4.

Step 4. If four or more chips from the 10 samples do not pass through/put through the sieve the pile is rejected. If three or fewer chips fail to pass through the sieve then the pile passes and can be moved.

**Note:** Mulch chips that do not meet the specified requirements as outlined above may be reground to meet this specification of 1 inch in two dimensions or alternatively composted as outlined below.