

THE EMERALD ASH BORER INFESTS ALL NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN ASH SPECIES

EMERALD ASH BORER

The Emerald ash borer (*agrilius planipennis fairmaire*) was first reported in Michigan in 2002. The non-native beetle exclusively infests and kills all native North American ash species (*Fraxinus sp.*). Ash trees comprise approximately 7% of all trees in New York State. The mountain ash is not a true ash and therefore is not at risk. Ash trees have been devastated in much of Michigan.

Infested ash trees become a public safety hazard. The life cycles of the Emerald ash borer (EAB) cause a tree to become brittle, allowing it to easily break apart and drop limbs.

How to Identify: Adults are roughly 3/8 - 5/8 inch long with metallic green wing covers and a copper red or purple abdomen.

Life Cycle: EAB develop from an egg into an adult in as little as 1 year. Adults live 3-6 weeks. Adults emerge from D-shaped exit holes in May. Soon after, females lay eggs in bark crevices. The eggs hatch in 1-2 weeks. The larvae then bore into the tree. The larvae make their home in the cambium – the layer between the bark and the wood. This layer of the tree is



EAB are identified by their metallic green wing covers. Infested trees can be identified from the D-shaped exit holes adult EAB create when they bore out of a tree, shown at right.

high in nutrients. The larvae and pupae tunnel and feed on the nutrient rich cambium, resulting in the tree losing nutrients and gradually dying. It is the larvae and pupa stages that damage or affect the tree.

NEVER Move Firewood: Infected firewood will infect healthy trees. The transport of firewood is a serious threat to spreading EAB. NYS has a regulation in effect that prohibits the import of firewood in to NY unless

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Emerald Ash Borer

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it has been heat treated to kill pests. Untreated firewood cannot be moved more than 50 miles from its source.

Infestation Signs: Early detection of an infested tree is difficult due to slow decline in tree health. Early infestation signs include:

- Canopy die back. Progresses until the tree is bare.
- Bark splits vertically.
- D-shaped exit holes and S-shaped tunneling under bark.
- Increased woodpecker activity.

EAB do not spread far on its own. The majority of infestations result from human activity, such as, the movement of firewood and ash materials out of known infested areas.

Natural predators have been discovered: woodpeckers and two species of parasitic insects, although these have not affected the rate of spread or dying trees. Removal of infested trees is the most effective way to eliminate/control EAB from spreading further. The USDA recommends felling infested trees and properly disposing of the wood. The wood can be disposed of by burning and chipping. Other options for control include spraying ash trees with chemicals and oils or injecting roots with fertilizers and nutrients. Experts are needed for these treatments.

What to Do: Public reports are the best way to try and stop the spread of EAB. Record the area where the insect or damage is detected. If possible, capture the insect and take pictures. Findings



Larvae and pupa tunnel between the bark and wood of the tree, resulting in reduction in nutrients to the tree, eventually killing the tree.

can be reported to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at 1-518-402-9425.

For more information on the Emerald ash borer, visit www.emeraldashborer.info.

Do your part to protect our trees. Learn the signs and report it!

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