

Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive wood-boring beetle from Asia, is responsible for the death and decline of tens of millions of ash trees in



North America. EAB lays its eggs in the bark crevices of ash trees. The eggs hatch and the larvae burrow into the tree where they feed. This feeding is what damages the trees. We have detected EAB infestations in 36 States and the District of Columbia.

EAB is difficult to detect early when pest populations are small because damage to the trees is hidden under the bark and tree decline is gradual. The beetle is well-suited to our climate, is a good flyer, and spreads naturally. People contribute to the

long-distance spread of the beetle when they move EAB-infested ash firewood, logs or nursery stock. EAB was first detected in North America in 2002 in southeast Michigan.

What To Look For

This invasive insect can attack and kill healthy ash trees in forests, and urban, suburban and rural settings. Here's what to look for:

Appearance

- EAB adults are metallic green with a coppery-red abdomen and about one-half inch long.

Signs of infestations

- EAB larvae burrow into the tree and feed on the inner bark and phloem and creating S-shaped markings. They pupate in winter and emerge as adults in spring, leaving D-shaped exit holes. The adults remain active until the end of summer.

Activity

- Adult beetles live for about three weeks. They are most active during the day, particularly when the weather is warm and sunny. To weather storms, they move to protected locations in bark crevices or cling to foliage.

Damage

- Symptoms of an infestation may include dead branches near the top of ash trees, excessive branching on tree trunks and vertical cracks in tree bark.

Woodpecker Activity

- Woodpeckers peel off the outermost layers of bark and punch their beaks through the remaining bark to eat larvae. If you see an increase in woodpecker activity, you may have EAB-infested trees.