

# PEST WARNING – EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)



**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia.

Emerald ash borer is also established in Windsor, Ontario, was found in Ohio in 2003, northern Indiana in 2004, northern Illinois and Maryland in 2006, **western Pennsylvania and West Virginia in 2007**, Wisconsin, Missouri and Virginia in the summer of 2008, Minnesota, New York, Kentucky in the spring of 2009, Iowa in the spring of 2010, Tennessee in the summer of 2010, Connecticut, Kansas, and Massachusetts in the summer of 2012, New Hampshire in the spring of 2013, North Carolina and Georgia in the summer of 2013, Colorado in the fall of 2013, New Jersey in the spring of 2014, Arkansas in the summer of 2014, and Louisiana in the winter of 2015.

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** is an invasive, ash tree-killing insect easily moved through firewood, ash logs, ash nursery stock, and parts of an ash tree. For that reason, all residents should monitor their ash trees for signs of the beetle.

*According to our township Forester/Arborist, John Hosbach, the adult beetles are present from mid-May until late July. Larvae, which are a creamy white color, can be found under bark. The larvae feed on the inner bark of white, black & green ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients.*



## Identifying Your Ash Trees

The distinctive leaves and bark of the ash tree (*Fraxinus* spp.) can help to identify it from other tree species. Ash trees have five, seven, or nine leaflets per leaf stem. The leaves are located directly across (or opposite) from each other. The bark is light gray and is rough and scaly on older trees. For more information on ash tree identification, please click here for a helpful identification fact sheet.

<http://www.bloomfieldtpw.org/Services/EES/Environment/EAB/IdentifyAsh.pdf>



## Evidence of Infestation:

Symptoms of the EAB infestation can include: the initial thinning or yellowing of the foliage (general or limited to certain branches); epicormic shoots which may or may not be present on declining trees; woodpecker damage from the birds stripping away small patches of bark, so that they can extract the borers; and D-shaped emergence holes (about 3 mm in diameter) which are probably present in multiple year infestations. You may also observe that the beetles feed on ash foliage usually in small irregularly shaped patches along the margins of leaves. The tissue produced by the tree in response to larvae feeding may cause vertical splits to occur in the bark. Injury to the tree from woodpecker activity may also occur particularly in the winter.



D-shaped exit holes in the bark



S-shaped larval feeding galleries under the bark



Leaves with ragged edges from feeding



Sparse leaves or dying branches



Cracks in the bark



Shoots (suckers) growing out of the trunk

## Links for residents

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/trees-shrubs/emerald-ash-borer>

[http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_20028475.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20028475.pdf)

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/insectsdisease/eab/index.htm>

## What can I do to protect my ash trees?

### Treatments:

We advise you to have commercial applicators treat your ash trees, particularly your large trees. However, homeowners can treat small trees very effectively. Be sure to read the label, follow the directions and wear the necessary personal protective gear. John Rockwell Hosbach, strongly recommends you hire a certified Arborist.

### Are there any guidelines I should follow when hiring an arborist or tree care company?

Before you make the decision to hire an arborist, take this quiz. If you plan to treat your tree, be sure to hire a reliable, insured, and licensed arborist/tree care company. Before work commences, be sure to obtain:

- Estimates from multiple companies
- Proof of insurance
- Written estimates of cost
- Written agreement of disposal/site cleanup requirements
- References

Our Township Forester/Arborist will be able to assist concerned residents with reviewing proposals, assisting in identification and provide a second opinion. He can be reached at:



John Rockwell Hosbach Jr., Urban Forester

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