

EMERALD ASH BORER

WHAT IS EAB?

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle that was discovered near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larva (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. It is estimated that EAB arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried on cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. EAB is also established in Quebec, Ontario, Ohio, northern Indiana, northern Illinois, Maryland, western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Missouri and Virginia. EAB has recently been detected in Minnesota.



Adult Emerald Ash Borer



Larva stage

HOW TO RECOGNIZE EAB

EAB is a slender, elongate insect about 1/3—1/2 inch long. It is widest just behind the head, gradually tapering back to the abdomen. It is a bright iridescent green to copper-green color, often with a copper colored area behind the head. Its body underneath the wings is a purplish-magenta color. There are several common insects that look similar, especially the six-spotted tiger beetle and the polydrusus weevil.

ECOLOGICAL THREAT

Once invaded the ash tree is typically killed within 2 to 4 years. By the end of the second year the tree begins to show thinning foliage and dieback of its crown. By the third year there is severe dieback with little to no foliage. Small d-shaped holes form in the bark where the adult EAB emerge. By removing the bark you will find

the larva galleries. Epicormic sprouts may form on the lower trunk and major branches and increased woodpecker attacks can also indicate the presence of EAB. Vertical splits may occur in the bark due to callous tissue forming over old galleries.



Larva galleries



Epicormic sprouts

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT EAB

- Be aware of what the EAB looks like and the symptoms of an infected tree.
- It is strongly recommended not to plant additional ash trees. If planting new trees consider other tree options that are available in Minnesota. If you currently have an ash tree in your yard and its healthy, there is no need to remove it.
- Don't transport firewood. Purchase firewood at local campgrounds or areas you are visiting.
- You can contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on their Arrest the Pest Hotline at 651-201-6684 or 1-888-545-6684 to report your suspicions.