



EMERALD ASH BORER

FAQs

cities & towns

1 What is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

EAB is an exotic, invasive, wood-boring insect that infests and kills American ash trees, both in forests and landscape plantings.

2 What does EAB look like?

The adult beetle is dark metallic green, bullet-shaped and about 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide. The body is narrow and elongated, and the head is flat with black eyes. The EAB larva is white and flat, has distinctive bell shaped segments and can grow up to 1.2 inches long. There are many other green insects that look similar to the adult EAB; compare with photos at eab.missouri.edu.



3 Where did EAB come from?

The native range of EAB is eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea.

4 When was EAB first discovered in North America?

EAB was first identified in southeast Michigan in 2002. It likely arrived several years earlier.

5 How did it get to North America?

It most likely traveled in ash wood used for stabilizing cargo in ships or for packing consumer products.

6. Where is EAB now?

As of April 2010, EAB had been found in 14 states, including Missouri, and in two Canadian Provinces.

EAB is not a “business as usual” tree pest. It kills quickly and thoroughly. It has completely overwhelmed the staff and budget resources of most communities in infested areas.

Be proactive and stay ahead of the pest.

7 Where is EAB in Missouri?

The only known EAB infestation in the state was discovered July 2008 in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Greenville Recreational Area on Lake Wappapello in Wayne County, Missouri.



8 How did EAB arrive in Missouri?

Because the discovery of this highly destructive pest was at a campground, there is a strong indication that it probably arrived in firewood.

9 What is Missouri doing about EAB?

State, federal, local agencies and groups are working together to educate the public and slow the spread of infestations. Alerting the public to the risk of moving firewood and spreading EAB is key to prevention, because this is a slow moving insect, except when people allow it to hitchhike.

10 Are there any areas in Missouri under quarantine?

Yes. Wayne County is under a federal quarantine. This means the interstate (between state) movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Wayne County is regulated, including firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost and chips of ash species. This federal order allows Missouri to place an equivalent parallel quarantine in place for the intrastate (within state) movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from Wayne County or face an interstate quarantine for the entire state.



11 How does EAB spread?

Movement of firewood is the most common way EAB is spread. EAB has also moved on nursery stock or logs. It moves slowly and short distances on its own by flying. Adults typically do not fly far from where they emerge, but this depends on the availability of food (ash trees). In Michigan, studies have shown that the vast majority of insects fly only several hundred yards from where they emerge.

12 How does EAB harm ash trees?

The larval stage of EAB feeds under the bark of trees, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. Infested trees gradually die over a 2-4 year period.

13 Which trees are susceptible?

All ash species found in Missouri—green, white, pumpkin and blue ash—as well as horticultural cultivars (e.g. Autumn Purple white ash and Marshall Seedless green ash) have been killed by EAB. It infests trees ranging in size from saplings to fully mature trees in forests. While most native borers kill only severely weakened trees, the emerald ash borer kills healthy trees as well, making it especially devastating.

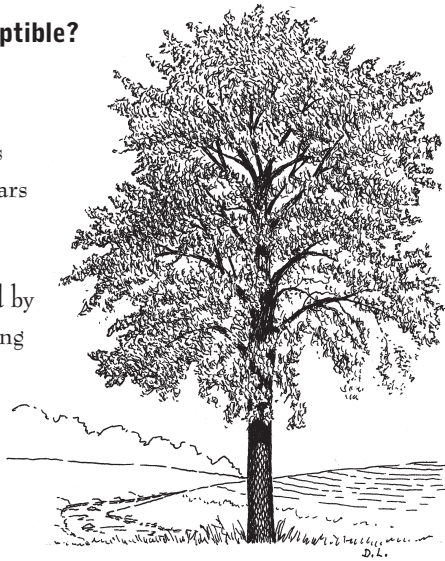


Illustration of a Green Ash Tree

14 The known Missouri infestation is nowhere close to my community. Do I really need to be concerned?

Because Missouri borders other states with known EAB infestations, and due to the way it easily spreads, EAB is expected to eventually appear in municipalities throughout the state. Ignoring EAB will not make it go away. The longer a community waits to prepare, the greater the burden on local budgets and staff.

15 Will state and/or federal agencies help take care of EAB if it is found in my community?

No, state and federal agencies cannot help you address an EAB infestation. There is no government funding source to pay local costs for EAB, though limited funds may be available for specific uses. For these reasons, communities are strongly advised to actively prepare for the insect's arrival, including development of a response plan and funding strategy. A well-planned response can minimize the impact, reduce liability, spread out and lessen the overall costs of EAB.

16 What should my community do about its ash trees before EAB arrives?

Communities will benefit from preparing a plan of action. Identify an EAB readiness team for your community. Become familiar with state quarantine procedures, compliance agreements and who to contact for questions. For more information regarding preparing a plan, see <http://extension.missouri.edu/emeraldashborer/cities.htm> Communities should also inventory their publicly owned trees so they know how many ash trees they have, their location and their present condition. Any trees already found to be declining or are dead should be removed now.

17 I don't know where ash trees are located in my community, what should I do?

Trees cannot be effectively managed until their location and general condition are known. The period before EAB arrives is an excellent time for your community to conduct a thorough inventory of all of its trees. Communities interested in performing complete inventories may be eligible for grant funds from the Missouri Department of Conservation community forestry program. If you do not have the time or finances to do a complete inventory, at least document where your ash trees are and record their general condition.

**18 I know the location and condition of ash trees in my community. Now what?**

Because the financial, environmental and social impacts of EAB can be acutely high, many communities in EAB's path have chosen to soften the blow through gradual, prioritized, preemptive removal of some of their public ash trees. Preemptively remove any ash trees that are in severe decline from any cause, have excessive maintenance needs, in conflict with utility lines or other problems are wise management choices. Under the circumstances, removal of such trees is not difficult to justify.

19 My community's budget continues to be cut and the possibility of an infestation is not enough of a reason for my town to take action. Any suggestions?

EAB is not going to go away. Communities that wait until the pest is entrenched will face budget-busting emergency forestry efforts to protect the public from standing dead trees that could fall at any time. Beyond tree removal costs, the loss of mature ash trees presents other consequences as well. With fewer large trees to provide shade, homeowners in affected areas have seen water use and energy consumption rise, while property values declined. Without the trees, stormwater into management systems increases and communities lose an important tool to mitigate air pollution.

20 City officials, as well as citizens, are upset at the removal of what looks like "good" ash trees. What should I tell them?

Inform elected officials of the potential effects the loss of the community's ash trees will have on the area and how the loss might affect the environmental health and public safety of the community. By proactively removing declining ash trees and replacing with other species, you are also preserving the beautiful landscape of your community. The community is allowing time for the trees to grow and fill in instead of being faced with a town full of declining and/or dead trees at once.

21 What should my community do with the ash trees we remove?

Designate a disposal site or sites within the community or county for ash wood debris. This could be a landfill, solid waste area, or industrial site where the debris can be buried or chipped. If burning is an option in your area, a burn permit must be obtained in advance. Determine a mulch/compost site for the ash wood chips that will be processed to smaller than 1-by-1 inch in two dimensions. Offer the mulch to residents and parks in the area. Do not offer the wood to residents as firewood.