

# What's that PURPLE THING hanging in the tree?

Is it a kite? A birdhouse? A holiday decoration gone astray? No! It's a trap set to catch a KILLER ... namely, the **EMERALD ASH BORER**.

## Profile of the Killer

The emerald ash borer is a half-inch-long, metallic green beetle that is native to Asia. By some estimates, this tiny insect has killed 50 million ash trees.



Adult Emerald Ash Borer



Emerald Ash Borer Larva

Emerald ash borer larvae feed under the bark of ash trees, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. This eventually causes the tree to starve and die.

## Setting the Trap

The July 2008 discovery of emerald ash borers in Wayne County made Missouri the ninth state to receive the pest. To protect ash trees and limit the emerald ash borer's spread, officials must determine where emerald ash borers exist. "Purple sticky traps" were placed throughout Missouri to help accomplish that goal.

### *How does the trap work?*

Emerald ash borers are attracted to the purple color and a special lure that is hung on the trap. The trap's surface is coated with a sticky glue that causes any insects that land there to stick.

### *Will the traps bring emerald ash borers into the area?*

No, the traps will not bring the borers into areas that aren't already infested. Traps simply help determine if emerald ash borers are already present in an area.

## Help Stop the Spread

### *Don't give emerald ash borers a free ride*

These pests can hitchhike in firewood, so when traveling, leave firewood at home. Get it at your destination.

### *Avoid planting ash trees*

Other large shade trees offer the same qualities as ash and will not fall prey to the emerald ash borer.

### *Watch your ash*

Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/firewood](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/firewood) or [EAB.missouri.edu](http://EAB.missouri.edu) to learn how to determine whether your ash tree is infested with emerald ash borer.

### *Report fallen purple sticky traps*

Call 866-322-4512 to report a fallen trap.

