

# Landscape Garden Centers

## Emerald Ash Borer

### ***What You Need to Know!***

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a destructive insect pest to all Ash trees (*Fraxinus* genus only). It is a native of Asia with its natural range including China, Japan, Mongolia and Korea. It was first discovered in Michigan in 2002. Since then it has spread to 10 other states including Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri. EAB is thought to have arrived here in packing material shipped from Asia. This destructive beetle has killed tens of millions of ash trees where it has been discovered.

### **Symptoms**

There are four main symptoms to be on the lookout for. Early infestation will be difficult to diagnose but watch for an area of multiple trees in decline. Keep in mind other problems could be causing an ash tree to decline.

- Crown dieback—usually the top 1/3 of the tree crown dies first and then it works its way down the tree
- Suckers on infested trees—usually they appear on the trunk of the tree where the healthy and dead tissue meet
- D-shaped exit holes—the adults emerge through these holes, usually 1/8 inch in size
- Woodpecker attacks—could indicate the presence of EAB
- Galleries under bark—if you were to remove the bark on the trunk, you should find S-shaped larval galleries

### **Life Cycle**

EABs overwinter as larvae under the bark of ash trees. They pupate in spring and emerge as adults through D-shaped holes. The adults are a slender, elongated insect about 1/3 to 1/2 inch long. They are a bright iridescent green to copper-green color on top with a purplish-magenta color under the wings. (Be careful in identifying this insect because it has a similar appearance to other borers that are common around here.) These adults can emerge any time from May to August. The newly emerged adults feed on leaves, mate and the females lay eggs on the bark or in small cracks in the bark. Eggs hatch in 7 to 10 days as very small whitish larvae and tunnel under the bark creating the S-shaped galleries in the phloem and outer sapwood. These tunnels interrupt the flow of water and nutrients to the tree. The larvae feed until fall and overwinter there.

### **What can I do?**

The first thing you can do is not transport firewood when you go camping or buying it for your home. Generally, the EAB can only move a 1/2 mile a year but with the “help” of people, it can travel hundreds of miles.

Keep your tree healthy by watering and fertilizing it regularly and properly—this will help deter EAB from attacking your trees. Another thing to do is be aware of EAB and watch for symptoms of it.

Our best advice is to treat the tree every year (ideally in the spring) as a preventative with an insecticide called ***Ferti•lome Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench*** (liquid) or ***Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Protect & Feed*** (granular). These products need to be applied once a year, every year for complete protection. When applied correctly, (follow label instructions) the insecticide will move down in to the soil and be absorbed by the tree roots and taken up into the tree. This internal protection will help guard against EAB.

If you have large established ash trees or are not comfortable treating your own trees, give us a call and we will help you treat or diagnose EAB.



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