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Ash trees in June 2006 and after emerald ash borer devastation in August 2009.

Photo: Daniel Herms, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

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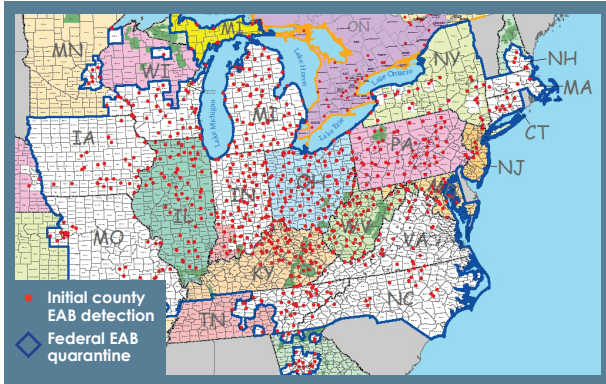
## Emerald Ash Borer



Preventive & Curative Treatments for Emerald Ash Borer

## History

First detected in Michigan in 2002, it is believed that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB, *Agrilus planipennis*) made its way into the United States in wood packing materials that originated in Asia. Since its arrival, this invasive beetle has had a devastating impact, killing tens of millions of trees in the US and Canada.



## Biology

Adult beetles are elongated, approximately 1/8 to 1/2 inch in length, with metallic green wings and bronze bodies. Beetles will hide in bark crevices and will occasionally feed on ash foliage, leaving small holes along leaf margins.

Shortly after emergence, adult beetles mate and lay eggs on the bark of ash trees that are at least 1 1/2 to 2 inches in diameter. Females will mate multiple times and can lay 60 to 90 eggs during their lifetime. After hatching, larvae chew their way through the tree's bark and tunnel into the cambium layer where they continue their development. The larvae create serpentine galleries that compromise the tree's nutrient and water transportation system, causing it to decline and eventually die. The larvae overwinter in the tree and pupate in the spring as the weather warms.

Adult beetles are capable of flying up to 4.5 miles from infestation sites. However, they can travel much longer distances through the transportation of infested firewood and nursery stock.

## Detection

Emerald ash borer is difficult to detect in low-level infestations.

Working with a certified arborist to identify and inspect ash trees for early warning signs is recommended.

### Signs of Emerald Ash Borer Infestation:

- Tiny D-shaped holes in the bark – from adults emerging in the spring
- Tree canopy dieback – EAB usually attacks the tops of trees first and proceeds downward
- Excessive sprouting from base of tree – sign of stress
- Vertical bark splitting – a result of larval feeding galleries
- Increased woodpecker activity – they like to feed on beetle larvae
- Larval tunneling – EAB-infested trees will exhibit larval tunneling beneath the bark



The larvae create serpentine galleries that compromise the tree's nutrient and water transportation system, causing it to decline and eventually die.



Photo: Arborjet

Treatment options that have proven most effective are systemic applications injected into the trunk of the tree or the soil.

## Prevention and Treatment

Many property owners are left wondering what they can do to save their ash trees. While preventive measures are key to tree survival, curative treatments are also available to save trees with early signs of infestation. Inoculations injected into the trunk of the tree or the surrounding soil have proven to be highly effective in preserving feature trees and treating those with symptoms of EAB.



These D-shaped borer exit holes are a common sign of an infestation.