

EMERALD ASH BORER

Help stop this insect PEST!

THE CULPRIT:

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that specializes on ash trees. EAB is native to parts of Asia and small areas of Russia. EAB was first discovered in the U.S. in 2002 in Michigan and is thought to have arrived via infested wood packing material. Since arriving in the U.S., EAB has been found in more than 20 mid-western and eastern states, killing tens of millions of ash trees.

EAB is considered to be the most destructive forest insect to ever invade the United States, and will attack both healthy and unhealthy trees.

STATUS IN UTAH:

EAB was found in Colorado in September, 2013 and is now on Utah's front door. We have NOT encountered EAB in Utah, but this pest does pose a significant risk of introduction and establishment.

EAB is a state quarantine pest. When EAB is found in an area, federal quarantines are enforced to prevent the movement of ash trees and ash products outside infested areas.



The EAB adult is a small (~1/2 inch in length), metallic, green-colored beetle with a flattened body.

Howard Russell, Michigan State University, bugwood.org



EAB adults have an iridescent copper red or purple abdomen hidden beneath their forewings.

David Cappaert, Michigan State University, bugwood.org



A mature larva can reach a length of ~1 inch, has 10 abdominal segments, and is tapeworm-like in appearance.

David Cappaert, Michigan State University, bugwood.org



Feeding larvae create S-shaped galleries underneath the bark.

Edward Czerwinski, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, bugwood.org

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY ASH TREE IS INFESTED?

EAB adults leave D-shaped exit holes (1/8-inch wide) when they emerge from tree trunks and branches in the spring. When the larvae chew the layers under the bark, they create S-shaped channels (see front page). Other signs and symptoms of EAB include thinning of the tree's canopy, new growth at the base of the tree or at the nooks of branches, bark splits, and increased woodpecker feeding/damage.

If your ash trees show any of these signs, contact the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food or Utah State University's Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab as soon as possible.



Daniel Herms, Ohio State University, budwood.org

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Lori Spears, Utah State University

IDENTIFYING ASH TREES

Ash trees are used extensively in residential and commercial landscapes and are found naturally in wood lots, along creek beds, and in low-lying wetlands. Some characteristics for identifying ash trees include opposite branching (branches and leaves are directly across from each other), compound leaves (a leaf composed of 5-11 leaflets), diamond-shaped bark, and oar-shaped seeds.



Keith Kanoo, Maine Forest Service, bugwood.org

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Paul Wray, Iowa State University, bugwood.org

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HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF EAB!

EAB is primarily spread by movement of infested wood from infested areas. You can help stop the spread of EAB by not transporting firewood and burning wood where you buy it. If you have ash trees in your yard, please check them periodically for signs of EAB.

REPORT SUSPECTED SPECIMENS OR DAMAGE

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
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Utah State University's Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab
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