A Homeowner's Guide to the Emerald Ash Borer

What is the Emerald Ash Borer?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle introduced to the Detroit area from eastern Asia in the mid-1990s that kills all species of ash tree. *The EAB is currently present in 19 states including New York and has been present in Monroe County since 2010.* To date, ash trees have shown no resistance to the beetle and there are no effective area-wide treatments to stop EAB population growth. It appears that *all* ash trees in the Northeast are threatened with eventual infestation and death if no action is taken.

Emerald Ash Borer
Credit-NYIS

What can you do?

1. Identify your trees

Identify ash trees on your property. The EAB *only* attacks ash trees but it will infest *all* ash trees (except Mountain Ash) so it is important to be aware of any on your property.

- Ash trees have compound leaves with five to eleven leaflets.
- Seeds are oar shaped and hang in clusters.
- Ash trees exhibit opposite branching meaning leaves and branches are located directly across from other leaves or branches.
- The bark of a mature ash tree is rough and has diamond shaped ridges.

Ash Leaf
Credit-NYIS

2. Protect your trees

Healthy ash trees can be protected from the EAB with insecticides. Please contact a professional arborist for information on the specific chemicals available. Insecticides must be reapplied every 1-3 years, depending on the product chosen, for as long as the EAB remains in our area. You should only begin treating your trees when the EAB has been found within ten miles of your property. To find out where the EAB is prevalent, visit **http://www.nyis.info**, click on the EAB link and then click the Maps button on the right-hand side of the page. *Ash trees that are not treated will become infested and die within 2-5 years of infestation.*

Ash Tree Trunk
Credit-NYIS

3. Recognize and report infestations

In order to save as many ash trees as possible and slow the spread of the EAB, its location and numbers must be monitored. You can assist in this effort by looking for and reporting possible infestations.

- Look for adult EAB, which are emerald green, approximately half an inch in length, and leave D shaped exit holes in infested trees.
- Another sign is the presence of EAB larvae which are white, 1 inch long, segmented, and leave S shaped galleries under a tree's bark.
- An infested tree could have a thinning canopy, vertical splits in the bark, woodpecker damage, and epicormic shoots.
- If you see any of these signs and suspect an EAB infestation contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office at **(585) 461-1000** or the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at **(866) 640-0652**.

D Shaped Exit Hole
Credit-Invasive.org

4. Educate yourself and others

- Visit the websites listed below to learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer and share the information with your friends and family.
    - **http://www.nyis.info**- Extensive information about the EAB and other invasive species
    - **http://www.cce.cornell.edu**- (search for EAB) – Informative articles about the EAB
    - **http://www.dec.ny.gov**- (search for EAB) – Articles about the EAB and links to more resources
- Did you know that transporting untreated firewood into New York from other states and moving firewood more than 50 miles within New York State is prohibited? These measures are in place to slow the spread of the EAB and other insects which have been shown to travel in firewood.

Close up of EAB Larvae
Credit-Invasive.org

5. Assist the Monroe County Emerald Ash Borer Task Force

The Monroe County Emerald Ash Borer Task Force (MCEABTF) is a volunteer organization of forestry professionals, scientists, natural resource managers, local officials, and private citizens. MCEABTF has organized to facilitate a science-based response to the economic, ecological, and public safety impacts within the forests and communities of Monroe County.
If you would like to assist in the goals of the MCEABTF please contact Mark Quinn at markquinn@monroecounty.gov

EAB Actual Size
Credit-NYIS