

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Emerald Ash Borer

1. **Where did the emerald ash borer (EAB) come from?** The native range of EAB is eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea.
2. **When was EAB first discovered in North America?** EAB was first identified in southeast Michigan in 2002. It likely arrived several years earlier.
3. **How did it get to North America?** We don't know exactly, but it most likely traveled in ash wood used for stabilizing cargo in ships or for packing consumer products.
4. **Where is EAB now?** As of January 2007, EAB has been found in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland and Ontario, Canada. EAB has not been detected in Wisconsin.
5. **What does EAB do to ash trees?** The larval stage of EAB feeds under the bark of trees, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. Infested trees die over a 2 to 4 year period.
6. **Which trees are susceptible?** All sizes and even very healthy ash trees can be killed. All of Wisconsin's native ash trees (green, white and black ash) as well as many horticultural cultivars are susceptible to infestation by EAB. Mountain ash, is not a true ash and is not susceptible to EAB infestation. Research studies are ongoing to test for resistance in various cultivars in the hopes that some may survive an infestation.
7. **Is ash an important tree in Wisconsin?** Cities throughout Wisconsin planted ash trees to replace the elms lost to Dutch elm disease in the 1960s and 70s. An estimated 30 percent of Wisconsin's street trees are ash. According to state officials, tree removal and replanting because of EAB could cost Wisconsin municipalities as much as \$2.4 billion. In addition to the cost of tree removal and replacement, homeowners may pay higher electric and water bills because air conditioners may run more and lawn watering may increase. Additionally, there are approximately 717 million ash trees scattered throughout Wisconsin's forests. Ash serves as an important member of our northern and southern forest and is a key member of forests growing in wet areas including swamps and along river ways.
8. **What does an EAB look like?** The adult beetle is dark metallic green and ½ inch long. Larvae are flat, cream-colored grubs with wide heads and they feed in the inner bark between the wood and the rough outer bark.
9. **How does EAB spread?** EAB is most commonly spread through the movement of infested firewood, nursery stock or ash logs. The adult beetle can also travel short distances through flight. EAB adults typically do not fly far from where they emerge but this is dependent on the availability of food (ash trees).
10. **How can I tell if my ash trees are infested with EAB?** The canopy of heavily infested trees will begin to die, usually near the top of the tree and progressing down the trunk. The other common signs of infestation include: D-shaped exit holes through the bark about 1/8 inch wide; S-shaped larval galleries just beneath the bark; vertical splits in the bark; thinning canopy; shoots sprouting from the main trunk or base of the tree; and unusually large amounts of woodpecker activity as they feed on the larvae.
11. **What is being done about EAB?** There is a national effort to limit the spread and impact of EAB. A national plan coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) guides what federal, state and local officials should do to manage this insect. Infested areas are quarantined which means selected materials such as ash firewood, nursery stock and ash logs may not be moved out of the infested areas. As of December 2006, the states of Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and lower Michigan have all been quarantined. Public information efforts have focused on early detection of EAB and limiting the movement

of firewood. State and federal surveys have focused on high-risk areas such as campgrounds, new developments where ash has been planted in the last 12 years and in the vicinity of businesses that import solid wood packing material or ash logs. Eradication of outlying infestations, where all ash within ½ mile of infested trees are cut and destroyed, is being implemented in selected areas.

12. **What is being done in Wisconsin?** The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is currently leading efforts to detect, plan for and limit the chance of EAB movement into and throughout Wisconsin. Regulations are currently in place that will control the movement of ash from quarantined areas into and within Wisconsin. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), together with DATCP and University of Wisconsin scientists, have been conducting detection surveys of areas deemed at high risk for introduction of EAB. These include camping areas and locations where ash trees may have been planted within the last 12 years. Public information and education focused on reporting possible sightings of EAB and limiting the movement of firewood is well underway. DNR has instituted a rule that prohibits the transport of firewood onto DNR-managed lands if it originated from out-of-state or from an area greater than 50 miles from the DNR property. A plan to collect and preserve the native ash tree population through the collection of ash seed is being developed.
13. **Is there anything I can do now to protect the ash trees in my yard from EAB?** There are chemical treatments available to protect ash trees from EAB but they are not 100 percent effective. If EAB is found in Wisconsin, the current plan calls for all trees within ½ mile of infested trees to be removed. Chemically treated trees will also be cut and destroyed if they fall within this eradication zone. The decision to treat is a personal preference but as long as eradication is planned, treated trees will not be given any special consideration. ***The state strategy is guided by the national EAB Science Advisory Panel and its success relies heavily on federal funds. The state's strategy will be constantly evaluated and may change based on new science-based management options, available funding and any national strategic changes.***
14. **Is ash still a viable choice when considering what to plant in my yard?** In general, having a diversity of species in your yard, on your street or in your community is your best defense against all tree health problems. If ash comprises 10 percent or more of the tree species in your local area, it would be best to choose an alternative. Studies are ongoing where scientists are testing native ash and cultivars for resistance to EAB feeding injury. Results are preliminary; resistant cultivars may be available at a future date. Check with your state horticulture extension agent for the latest information.
15. **What can I do to help?** Educate yourself on how to recognize signs and symptoms of EAB. Two excellent sources of information may be found at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) and [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/) Report possible sightings of EAB by calling 1-800-462-2803. **Do not move firewood.** Purchase or cut all firewood from the same general location where you plan to use it, and when camping or at the cabin, do not bring any that's left over home with you.