

Emerald Ash Borer

An Insect That Kills Ash Trees

Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive species from Asia that attacks all ash species that grow in Minnesota. The larvae of the beetle destroy the vascular system of the tree causing dieback and death. Trees infested with the beetle have no natural defenses to the insect and will die within 3 years of the initial attack. Trees can die within a year where the insect is established and insect population is high.

What is at Risk?

All species of ash trees are highly susceptible to the emerald ash borer. By the time an ash tree shows obvious damage, it is usually too late to treat for EAB. However, preventive treatment can protect and save your ash tree.

What to Look for

- Early fall coloration.
- Sparse leaves and tree canopy dieback.
- Woodpecker feeding.
- New branches sprouting from trunk.
- D-shaped holes in the bark showing where adult borers have exited.
- Hollow galleries underneath the bark.
- Decline in entire groups of ash trees.

Life Cycle

- Insect larvae hatch from eggs deposited by beetles in bark crevices.
- Larvae chew through the bark and begin feeding on the tree interior.
- Feeding is complete in fall and larvae remain in the tree through winter.
- Adult beetles emerge late May to mid-August.

Treatment and Prevention

There are currently two options available for protection against the Emerald Ash Borer:

- A soil-applied systemic treatment.
» Application is yearly.
- A trunk injection systemic treatment.
» Application every other year.

Treatment timelines are dependent on your tree, landscape, infestation levels, and time of season.



Dieback starts from the top of the tree and moves downward.



Larvae feeding galleries.



Emerald Ash Borer beetle.