



Emerald Ash Borer

FAQs

1. What is the emerald ash borer (EAB)?

EAB is an exotic, invasive, wood-boring insect that infests and kills native North American ash trees, both in forests and landscape plantings.

2. What does EAB look like?

The adult beetle is dark metallic green, bullet-shaped and about 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide. The body is narrow and elongated, and the head is flat with black eyes. EAB larvae are white and flat, have distinctive bell shaped segments and can grow up to 1 1/4 inches long. There are many other green insects that look similar to the adult EAB.



3. Where did EAB come from?

The native range of EAB is eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea.

4. When was EAB first discovered in North America?

EAB was first identified in southeast Michigan in 2002.

5. How did it get to North America?

It most likely traveled in ash wood used for stabilizing cargo in ships or for packing consumer products.

6. Where is EAB now?

As of December 2012, EAB had been found in 18 states, including Missouri, and in two Canadian Provinces.

7. How did EAB arrive in Missouri?

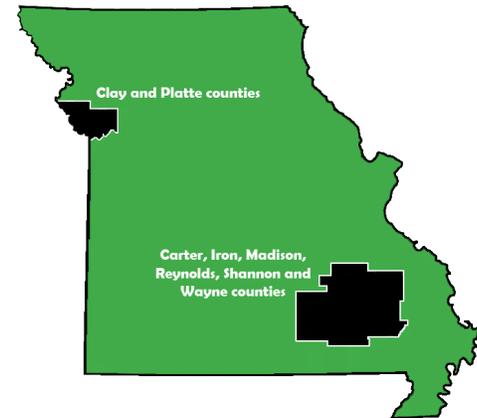
Because the initial discovery of this highly destructive pest was at a campground, there is a strong indication that it probably arrived in firewood.

Cities & Towns

EAB is not a "business as usual" tree pest. It kills quickly and thoroughly. It has completely overwhelmed the staff and budget resources of most communities in infested areas.

8. Where and when was EAB found in Missouri?

EAB was first discovered near Wappapello Lake in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Greenville Recreation Area in Wayne County, Mo. in July of 2008. As of December 2012, EAB has been found in Reynolds, Madison and Platte counties.



9. What is Missouri doing about EAB?

State, federal, local agencies and groups are working together to educate the public and slow the spread of infestations. Alerting the public to the risk of moving firewood and spreading EAB is key to prevention, because this is a slow moving insect, except when people allow it to hitchhike.

10. Are there any areas in Missouri under quarantine?

Yes. Wayne, Madison, Reynolds, Iron, Carter, Shannon, Clay and Platte counties are quarantined to prevent the accidental spread of the beetle. This means the interstate (between states) movement of EAB host wood and wood products – nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, chips of ash species and firewood of all hardwood species – from these counties is regulated. Likewise, the Missouri Department of Agriculture has enacted a state interior quarantine, which prohibits the intrastate (within state) movement of EAB regulated articles from quarantined counties.

To report a possible EAB infestation: 1-866-716-9974

www.eab.missouri.edu



11. How does EAB spread?

Although EAB can fly short distances on its own, much of its spread is due to humans transporting it as larvae burrowed under the bark of firewood, landscape trees and ash tree debris.

12. How does EAB harm ash trees?

Adult females lay their eggs on the bark of ash trees. When the eggs hatch, the larvae burrow under the bark and eat the living tissue, cutting off the life-giving channels that carry water and nutrients to the tree. After 2-4 years, enough of the channels are cut off that the tree starves to death.

13. Which trees are susceptible?

All ash species found naturally in Missouri, green, white, pumpkin and blue ash, as well as horticultural cultivars (e.g. Autumn Purple white ash or Marshall Seedless green ash) have been killed by EAB, which can infest trees ranging in size from saplings to fully mature trees in forests. While most native borers kill only severely weakened trees, EAB can also kill healthy trees, making it especially devastating.



14. The known Missouri infestation is nowhere close to my community. Do I really need to be concerned?

EAB is probably closer to your community than you think. Because Missouri borders other states with known EAB infestations, and has at least two infested areas, new infestations are expected. Ignoring EAB will not make it go away. The longer a community waits to prepare, the greater the burden on local budgets and staff.

15. How important are ash trees to Missouri?

Ash trees account for three percent of the native forest. The fast-growing shade trees are popular for landscaping, though, and about 14 percent of trees lining streets in urban settings are ash. In some neighborhoods and parks the figure reaches as high as 30 or 40 percent.

16. Are dying ash trees always an indication of an EAB infestation?

No, ash trees are affected by several diseases and insects. Ash trees throughout the state may exhibit dying branches and/or decline and some may show signs of heavy woodpecker damage. This may or may not be due to EAB.

17. What signs are the best evidence that EAB may be attacking my tree?

Look for 1/8 inch diameter D-shaped holes in the bark where the beetles have exited and short (3-5 inches) vertical splits in the bark that reveal S-shaped "trails" (tunnels) under the bark.

18. Will state or federal agencies help take care of EAB if it is found in my community?

There is very little government funding available to pay local costs for EAB, though limited funds may be available for specific uses. Communities are strongly advised to actively prepare for the insect's arrival, including developing a response plan and funding strategy. A well-planned response can minimize the impact, reduce liability and spread out and lessen the overall costs of EAB.

19. What should my community do about its ash trees before EAB arrives?

Become familiar with state quarantine procedures, compliance agreements and resources to contact for questions. For more information regarding preparing a plan, please visit eab.missouri.edu. Communities should also inventory their publicly owned trees so they know how many ash trees they have, their location and their present condition. Any trees already found to be declining or dead should be removed now.



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20. I don't know where ash trees are located in my community, what should I do?

Trees cannot be effectively managed until their location and general condition are known. The period before EAB arrives is an excellent time for your community to conduct a thorough inventory of all of its trees. Communities interested in performing complete inventories may be eligible for grant funds from the Missouri Department of Conservation Urban and Community Forestry Program. If you do not have the time or finances to do a complete inventory, document known ash trees and record their general condition.

21. I know the location and condition of ash trees in my community. Now what?

Because the financial, environmental and social impacts of EAB can be acutely high, many communities in EAB's path have chosen to soften the blow through gradual, prioritized, preemptive removal of some of their public ash trees. Preemptively removing any ash trees that are in severe decline from any cause, have excessive maintenance needs, conflict with utility lines or have other problems is a wise management choice.

22. My community's budget continues to be cut and the possibility of an infestation is not enough of a reason for my town to take action. Any suggestions?

EAB is not going to go away. Communities that wait until the pest is entrenched will face budget-busting emergency forestry efforts to protect the public from standing dead trees that could fall at any time. Beyond tree removal costs, the loss of mature ash trees presents other consequences as well. With fewer large trees to provide shade, homeowners in affected areas have seen water use and energy consumption rise, while property values declined. Without the trees, storm water into management systems increases and communities lose an important tool to mitigate air pollution.

23. City officials, as well as citizens, are upset at the removal of what looks like "good" ash trees. What should I tell them?

Inform elected officials of the potential effects the loss of the community's ash trees will have on the area and how the loss might affect the environmental health and public safety of the community. By proactively removing declining ash trees and replacing them with other species, you are also preserving the beautiful landscape of your community.

24. What should my community do with the ash trees we remove?

Designate a disposal site or sites within the community or county for ash wood debris. This could be a landfill, solid waste area, or industrial site where the debris can be buried or chipped. If burning is an option in your area, a burn permit must be obtained in advance. Determine a mulch/compost site for the ash wood chips that will be processed to smaller than 1-by-1 inch in two dimensions. Offer the mulch to residents and parks in the area. Do not offer the wood to residents as firewood.



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