



## 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. Where did EAB come from?

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

### 3. When was EAB first discovered in North America?

EAB was first identified in southeast Michigan in 2002.

### 4. 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.

### 5. Where is EAB now?

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

### 6. 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.

### 7. 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.

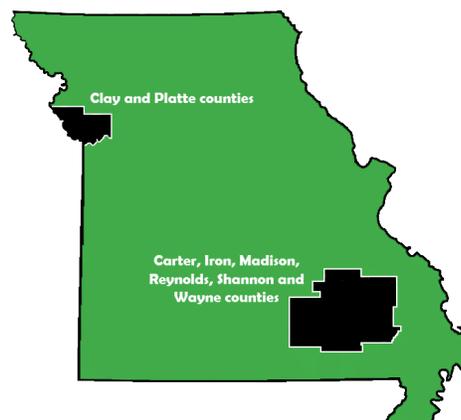
There are many other green insects that look similar to the adult EAB.



**EAB regulations help limit the spread of this invasive insect. Know the regulations and quarantines in place for Missouri and surrounding states.**

### 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 being done about EAB at the Greenville Recreational Area?

More than 2,000 acres of ash have been removed from federal lands surrounding the campground by USACE since EAB was discovered in 2008. A pilot program called SLAM (Slow Ash Mortality) has also been established at the Greenville Recreation Area.

### 10. What is Missouri doing to monitor EAB situation in the state?

Annual surveys to detect the arrival of EAB are conducted by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture at selected sites throughout the state, which may include state parks, public and commercial campgrounds, nurseries and high-risk urban sites. These efforts include visual surveys as well as purple prism shaped traps and detection trees. The agencies, as well as the Missouri Department of Conservation, also rely on reports from concerned citizens of possible EAB infestations. 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.

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

**[www.eab.missouri.edu](http://www.eab.missouri.edu)**

## 11. 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.



## 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. 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.

## 14. What is being done to stop EAB from spreading?

There is a national effort to limit the spread and impact of EAB. Infested areas are quarantined to prevent movement of EAB in firewood and other ash products that can carry it. Many states are educating the public on the dangers of moving firewood, the primary way EAB and many other invasive pests and diseases are spreading. Ongoing research and development of safe and effective pesticides, traps and other management strategies is taking place at state and national levels.

## 15. Are there any other states under quarantine?

Yes, the entire states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the lower peninsula of Michigan are under federal quarantine. Furthermore, parts of Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New York and Wisconsin are under state and federal quarantines. In the event that you are buying and planting ash nursery stock, be sure you know the origin of those trees before purchasing them.

## 16. 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.



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## Industries

## 17. What does the quarantine mean?

A federal quarantine is put into place 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.

## 18. What regulations are in place for industries concerning ash trees in affected counties?

- **Nurseries:** ash nursery stock within quarantined areas is prohibited from being distributed outside EAB quarantine area.
- **Mills and loggers:** ash logs cannot be moved out of the quarantine area during the adult flight period (roughly April 1 through September 30) unless fumigated or debarked. From October 1 through March 31, ash logs may be allowed to be moved to an approved mill outside of the quarantine area for processing by March 31. Bark and wood waste must also be processed by March 31. Those processes must be approved by state or federal agriculture agencies.
- **Green lumber manufacturers:** ash lumber will need to be processed in an approved manner, such as complete removal of bark (plus 1/2 inch of wood), kiln drying by approved standards, or fumigation prior to distribution out of the quarantine area. All processes will need approval by state or federal agencies.
- **Pallet producers:** ash lumber (generated from ash from the quarantine area) used to make pallets will need to be processed in a manner approved by state or federal agencies.

For all regulatory inquiries, please contact:

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State Entomologist  
Missouri Department of Agriculture  
(573) 751-5505



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**Extension**

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