

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)



Emerald ash borer, an invasive insect that attacks ash trees, is the most destructive forest insect in North America. It has been found in more than thirty states and throughout New England. It has killed tens of millions of ash trees since its initial detection in 2002. It is readily transported in hardwood firewood, ash wood products, and ash nursery stock. Early detection is critical to success and cost of management programs. Learn the signs and symptoms associated with emerald ash borer infestation in ash.



Metallic green adults emerge from infested ash trees late May—early July. They are 1/2 inch long and have a purplish-red abdomen that can be seen when the wings are open. Adults feed on true ash (*Fraxinus*) leaf margins, giving the leaf margins a ragged appearance. After this feeding (early June - early August), they mate and lay eggs in bark crevices of ash trees.



Larvae hatch from eggs and tunnel into the ash tree's nutrient-rich cambium layer. Larvae make S-shaped galleries as they feed, reducing the ability of the tree to translocate nutrients. EAB will remain under the bark until the following spring.



Adults emerge from 1/8 inch wide D-shaped exit holes which are noticeable in the bark of infested ash trees.



Signs of EAB infestation in ash include:

- Larval galleries
- D-shaped exit holes
- Crown die-back
- New growth or shoots from the base of the tree
- Heavy woodpecker activity called "blonding"

For more information or to report a suspect tree or insect, visit:

www.nhbugs.org.