

EAB Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where did the emerald ash borer come from?

The natural range of *Agrilus planipennis*, or the emerald ash borer, is eastern Russia, northern China, Japan, and Korea. Before June of 2002, it had never been found in North America.

2. What types of trees does the emerald ash borer attack?

In North America, it has only been found in ash trees, although in 2014 it also was found in white fringe tree. Trees in woodlots as well as landscaped areas are affected. Larval galleries have been found in trees or branches measuring as little as 1-inch in diameter. All species of North American ash appear to be susceptible.

3. Where has it been found?

It is now found in Michigan, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Ontario and Quebec, making EAB an international pest problem. Many of these infestations are not new; the ability to find infestations has improved as survey methods improve. However, it is important to watch for signs and symptoms of EAB in non-quarantine areas where the beetle may have been accidentally transported in ash firewood.

4. What happens to infested ash trees?

The canopy of infested trees begins to thin above infested portions of the trunk and major branches because the borer destroys the water and nutrient conducting tissues under the bark. Heavily infested trees exhibit canopy die-back usually starting at the top of the tree. One-third to one-half of the branches may die in one year. Most of the canopy will be dead within 2 years of when symptoms are first observed. Sometimes ash trees push out sprouts from the trunk after the upper portions of the tree dies. Although difficult to see, the adult beetles leave a "D"-shaped exit hole in the bark, roughly 1/8 inch in diameter, when they emerge.

5. What do emerald ash borers look like?

The adult beetle is dark metallic green in color, 1/2 inch-long and 1/8 inch wide. The larva grow up to 1 ½ inches in length and have a unique stacked cup body shape.



6. How is this pest spread?

We know EAB adults can fly at least 1/2 mile from the tree where they emerge. Many infestations, however, were started when people moved infested ash nursery trees, logs, or firewood into non-infested areas. Ash nursery stock, logs, lumber and pallets are regulated by USDA and the state in areas where EAB has been confirmed. In addition, transporting any hardwood firewood outside of the quarantined areas is illegal. However, transport of infested firewood remains a problem. **PLEASE - do not move any ash firewood or logs outside of the quarantined area. LDAF suggests that all firewood be purchased within 10 miles from where it will be used. If camping or traveling, please make sure to burn all of the wood that is brought to the site.**

7. Does it only attack dying or stressed trees?

Healthy ash trees are also susceptible, although beetles may prefer to lay eggs or feed on stressed trees. When EAB populations are high, small trees may die within 1-2 years of becoming infested and large trees can be killed in 3-4 years.

8. What is being done at the state level?

LDAF has been working on an EAB Response Plan which involves outreach, survey and trapping, and regulatory measures. LDAF has provided outreach material to other agencies like Wildlife & Fisheries, Louisiana State Parks, and Louisiana Forestry Association. Trapping efforts are being coordinated with USDA-PPQ, US Forestry Service, NRCS, and LDAF's Forestry Division. Regulatory measures are being handled by LDAF's Horticulture & Quarantine Division and USDA Plant Protection & Quarantine Division.

9. How big a problem is EAB?

EAB is now considered the most destructive forest pest ever seen in North America. State and federal agencies have made this problem a priority. Homeowners can also help by carefully monitoring their ash trees for signs and symptoms of EAB throughout the year.

10. Who do I call to get more information on the Emerald Ash Borer or to report an infested tree?

Contact your County Agent Extension office or the Louisiana Department of Agriculture Horticulture & Quarantine Division at 225-952-8100, or via e-mail at horticulture@ldaf.state.la.us