

What is the Emerald Ash Borer beetle?

The Emerald Ash Borer beetle (EAB) is an invasive pest species first detected in the U.S. in Michigan in 2002. It has been destroying ash trees and devastating forests ever since, killing millions of trees as it spreads across the northeastern U.S. and southeastern Canada.

New York State has over 900 millions ash trees—this is almost 8% of all the trees in the state—and the highest concentrations of ash are in Central and Western New York. All ash trees are threatened by the spread of the EAB.

Though adult beetles eat some leaves, tree death is caused by the young beetle larvae eating their way through the cambium layer of the inner bark. This is the primary, nutrient-rich vascular system of ash trees, so once the larvae destroy the cambium, the tree dries out, starves, and dies.

What can you do to save your trees and stop the spread of EAB?

STEP 1: Identify your ash trees.

The easiest way to identify an ash tree is to look for two things:

1. 9- to 15-inch-long compound leaves with 5 to 11 leaflets growing directly across from each other off of the main leaf stem
2. Leaves and branches growing across from each other (i.e., “opposite”), as opposed to alternating right and left.



Typical Ash Leaf



Alternate stem & branch pattern seen on a black locust tree

Opposite stem & branch pattern seen on an ash tree

STEP 2: Assess the health & value of your ash trees.

Your action plan should be based on your ash tree's health:

1. Is the tree healthy, growing green & lush every year?
2. Is the tree in a location where it can keep growing bigger without damaging a house or other structure?
3. Is the root base stable so the tree can withstand strong winds and severe weather?



If you answered “yes” to these questions and you want to save your trees, you must begin treatment right away.

If you answered “no,” you still need to take action. EAB will attack and kill all untreated trees, and damaged and dead trees are more costly and dangerous to remove. If you do not want to save your trees, it will be better to remove them before they become targets for the EAB beetles.

STEP 3: Contact a local tree expert/arborist to get advice on the best insecticide treatment for your trees or to determine the best time for removal.

No single treatment plan or application method is best under all circumstances. Different treatment regimens will be optimal under different situations.

Likewise, you don't want to take down a tree before it's necessary, nor let a tree remain to become damaged. Tree removal is a dangerous and highly-skilled job, so you should contact a professional to help you make the best decisions.

STEP 4: REMEMBER—DO NOT MOVE FIREWOOD!

A QUARENTINE IS NOW IN EFFECT FOR ALL ASH WOOD LOGS AND FIREWOOD. IT CANNOT BE MOVED OUTSIDE OF EAB INFECTED AREAS.



EAB is spread faster and farther by the movement of firewood. EAB beetles don't fly far. If we stop moving firewood, we can stop the rapid spread of EAB.

For more information and to find a certified tree professional, call Cornell Cooperative Extension (716-652-5400) or visit:

www.emeraldashborer.info

www.nyis.info (New York Invasive Species site)

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html

(NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation site)

www.isa-arbor.com (Find an Arborist)

Brochure courtesy the WNY EAB Task Force

ALERT!

INVASIVE BEETLES ARE KILLING OUR TREES

Destructive Emerald Ash Borer beetles are here in Western NY.

SEVERE THREAT: Every ash tree will die if not protected by insecticides.

Learn what EAB beetles are and what you can do to protect your property and save your trees.



ASSESS YOUR TREES

TREAT YOUR TREES OR TAKE THEM DOWN

DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD