Neighbors Against Bad Bugs: Quick Guide to Action

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle from Asia that attacks and kills North American ash trees (Fraxinus spp). EAB attacks only ash trees and will kill every ash tree not protected with insecticides. The adult beetle is metallic green and about ½ inch long.

The Emerald Ash Borer came from Asia to Detroit in the early 1990s in shipping material made from ash wood. The insect was not identified in Michigan until 2002 after thousands of ash trees in the area had already died. Since then it has spread to several states and parts of Canada where it has killed millions of ash trees. EAB most commonly moves to new areas on infested firewood.

For detailed information on EAB and what you can do to manage your ash trees, please visit: [http://www.eabindiana.info](http://www.eabindiana.info)

Do I have an ash tree in my yard or neighborhood?

Look for:

- **Branches and buds** that are opposite from each other, not alternate (staggered).

- **Ash leaves** are compound (composed of leaflets instead of a single leaf). Each leaf is made up of 5-11 leaflets.

Is my ash tree infested with EAB?

Look for:

- Dieback of leaves at the top of the tree.
- Vertical splits in the bark.
- Curvy S-shaped channels under the bark.
- Tiny D-shaped exit holes in the tree’s bark.
- Witches’ brooms or water sprouts at the base of the tree.
- Woodpecker damage on the bark (“flecking”).
How can you prepare your neighborhood for the arrival of EAB?

• Count your ash trees.
• Discuss this number with your city forester and determine local policy for tree management.
• Work with tree care professionals to decide which ash trees are healthy enough to protect, or remove and replace. Click here [http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/eab/pdf/hiringProfessionalHelpForYourAskTrees.doc](http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/eab/pdf/hiringProfessionalHelpForYourAskTrees.doc) for information on hiring a certified arborist.
• Ask arborists to use the EAB Cost Calculator to estimate the costs and benefits of management plans over time. Find the calculator at [http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/treecomputer/](http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/treecomputer/)
• Use the Tree Replacement Guide and advice from nursery professionals to decide on replacement trees that are best suited to your neighborhood. [http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/eab/content/management/homeowners/replacementtrees.html](http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/eab/content/management/homeowners/replacementtrees.html)
• Discuss estimates with neighbors to develop a consensus management plan
• Look for reputable contractors willing to consider discounts for high volume work.

Pesticides for EAB:

• Several effective pesticides that are approved to control EAB.
• Some are directly available for use by homeowners and other are for use by licensed pesticide applicators only.
• Products can be applied as soil drenches, high pressure soil injections, trunk injections, trunk implants or trunk sprays.

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer in Indiana, visit [www.eabindiana.info](http://www.eabindiana.info)

If you have questions about preventing EAB in your ash trees, contact your local Purdue Extension Educator by calling toll-free: 1-888 EXT INFO (1-888 398 4636)