



Emerald Ash Borer

What is Emerald Ash Borer?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle from Asia that has killed hundreds of millions of Ash Trees in the United States and Canada since 2002. The first confirmed case of EAB was reported in Toledo, Ohio on February 28, 2003. As of January 1, 2020, 35 states have been invaded by EAB. The 3/8 - 1/2 inch long and 1/16-1/8 inch wide adult beetle has metallic green wings and feeds on the leaves of the tree. This feeding causes little damage to the tree and is not the main concern. It is the worm-like larva that feeds under the bark in the xylem layer that poses the real threat to the tree. This feeding disrupts the movement of water and nutrients within the tree by severing its transport vessels. This disruption causes the tree to die within a few years after infestation with symptoms that closely mimic drought stress.

Are my trees at risk?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) for the most part attacks Ash Trees as its name suggests. It was also found in White Fringe Trees in August of 2014 in Dayton, Ohio. Ash Trees are found extensively in residential and commercial landscapes and natural woodlands. The Department of Natural Resources estimates that there were over 5 billion Ash Trees in the state of Ohio. In some neighborhoods they had comprised 25% or more of the trees in the urban forest before EAB. Correct identification of the trees in your landscape is the first step in determining how EAB will impact your property. Mature Ash Trees have diamond-shaped bark patterns and compound leaves composed of 5 to 11 leaflets.

Why should you treat?

Are you not sure if you have an Ash Tree, or have you just recently moved into your house? We recommend that one of our Certified Arborists come out and examine your trees to see if you have any Ash Trees. The Certified Arborist will consider the overall health of the Ash Tree(s) and its importance in your landscape. Legacy trees are trees that provide significant shade and aesthetic value to your property. Healthy, vigorous trees are ideal for treatment. We have found proper mulching and exposing the root flare, along with fertilization, will help to keep your trees healthy and vigorous.

Management of EAB.

We recommend a trunk injection to the exposed root flare of the tree for management of EAB. The trunk injection of Emamectin Benzoate needs to be done every other year. The best time to do the trunk injection is mid-May through late-October when the uptake of material by the tree is best. Once treatments have begun, they must be continued in order to maintain effectiveness. We constantly monitor what scientists have tested and performed in tests of other possible treatments, and we will change to other treatments if recommended.

Removal of the tree.

A removal, if recommended, is best to be performed before the tree dies. Dead Ash Trees cause additional problems and expense as they become brittle and hazardous very quickly. This necessitates the use of specialized equipment such as bucket trucks, aerial lifts, and cranes for removal. Give us a call to have a Certified Arborist come out to help you determine the best management plan for you.



Emerald Ash Borer larva marks (left)



Healthy tree versus an Emerald Ash Borer infected tree (right)



Emerald Ash Borer holes in a tree (above)



Ash tree leaves (right)

Ahlum & Arbor Tree Preservation is a family-owned, full service arboricultural firm serving both Residential and commercial clients in central Ohio for over four decades. Ahlum & Arbor's staff includes Board Certified Master Arborist, ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist, Certified Arborist, ISA Tree Care Safety Professionals, State Licensed Pesticide Applicators and much more.

614.876.5622 • 1740 Walcutt Rd. • Columbus, OH 43228 • www.ahlumarbor.com

