

Since the EAB infestation was discovered in 2002, dead ash trees have cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars as well as many other benefits these trees provided.



Trees Forever has been helping communities plant a diverse mix of trees for more than 25 years and we will continue to do that as we educate people about the threat from the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive pests. Since 2010, Trees Forever has worked with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau and with support from the U.S. Forest Service to prepare smaller communities for the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer.

## What is Emerald Ash Borer?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a metallic green insect native to Asia. The adult beetle is approximately 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide. In North America, the EAB was discovered in 2002 near the port cities of Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario, and has since spread into the surrounding states. Regionally, the insect was detected in Illinois in 2006 and in Iowa in 2010 and has since spread extensively in both states.

The adult EAB emerges from infested ash trees via D-shaped holes. EAB larvae leave S-shaped galleries as they tunnel through the layer immediately under the bark, damaging the tree's ability to transport nutrients and water. Symptoms of EAB include thinning of the tree's crown, suckers that shoot up from the base of the tree, and woodpecker activity.

*Top and bottom right: David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org*

*Penny: Howard Russell, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org*

*Bottom left and far left: Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org*



*Ash trees in Bloomington, Illinois being killed by Emerald Ash Borer.*

### Additional Information

[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)  
[www.stopthebeetle.info](http://www.stopthebeetle.info)  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health)  
[www.na.fs.fed.us/ftp/eab](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/ftp/eab)

#### In Iowa

[www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/eab](http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/eab)  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/emeraldashborer.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/emeraldashborer.html)  
[www.iowatreepests.com](http://www.iowatreepests.com)

#### In Illinois

[www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/urbanforestry](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/urbanforestry)  
[www.illinoiseab.com](http://www.illinoiseab.com)  
[www.webextension.illinois.edu/firewood/eab/cfm](http://www.webextension.illinois.edu/firewood/eab/cfm)

## EAB Recommendations & Tips

### For Community Leaders & City Staff

1. Engage a stakeholder group in developing a readiness plan that includes a tree inventory and a communications plan for letting citizens know how the city government will be addressing tree removal and replacement. Include in this group representatives from local tree committees, neighborhood organizations, tree nurseries, local schools, utility companies, concerned citizens groups and organizations such as Trees Forever.
2. Do NOT remove *healthy* ash trees. Keep in mind that large healthy trees provide several benefits to residents, including improving air and water quality, providing shade and energy savings, and making neighborhoods safer and more pleasant places to live, work, and shop. Healthy trees are some of our oldest residents who work hard for our communities.
3. Research management options and associated costs. There are basically four options: do nothing, treat with insecticides for the rest of the life of the trees, remove and replant, or treat with insecticides temporarily to delay removals.
4. Continue to plant trees! Plant a diverse mix of appropriate trees before ash are removed. Be sure not to plant too many of any one genus (such as oaks, maples, etc.) or species (such as bur oak, red oak, pin oak, sugar maple, amur maple, etc.)

### For Homeowners

1. Identify the trees – especially the ash trees – on your property.
2. Research your management options. If you have a special tree and EAB has been confirmed within 15 miles of your home, you may want to consider treating the tree with insecticides. Either hire a professional or, if treating the tree yourself, read all the label warnings. You don't want to save the tree only to compromise beneficial insects or water quality! Also, treatment of the tree is a lifelong commitment requiring treatments annually or every two to three years.
3. If an affected tree does not represent a hazard to people or structures, consider leaving it alone. Dead standing trees are very important wildlife habitat and contribute to the creation of healthy soils.
4. Most important, to prevent a future EAB-type problem, plant a diverse mix of trees and plants on your property (see #4 above).

Join Trees Forever on its mission to plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community and promoting stewardship.

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