

Emerald Ash Borer

Images courtesy of <http://www.inspection.gc.ca>



Emerald Ash Borer



Underneath tree bark stem



Emerald Ash Borer Larvae



Ash tree crown defoliation

What is the Emerald Ash Borer?

The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive insect from eastern Asia that kills ash trees. It was discovered in southern Ontario in 2002 and the most southern part of the Lake Simcoe watershed in 2011. It is responsible for the death and decline of more than six million ash trees in Michigan and southern Ontario.

How does it spread?

Although the Emerald Ash Borer can fly several kilometres in search of new host plants, they are typically transported by moving infested firewood, nursery stock, trees, logs, mulch and lumber.



Appearance

The Emerald Ash Borer goes through four stages in its life cycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The adult is 3 millimetres (mm) to 7.5 millimetres (mm) in length and can be identified by its metallic green colour.

How do they affect ash trees?

The Emerald Ash Borer feeds on ash tree leaves and lays eggs in the bark from early June to the end of August. Hatched larvae feed on the wood underneath the bark of the tree stem and large branches, killing the tree by cutting circulation of nutrients and water.

Signs of infection:

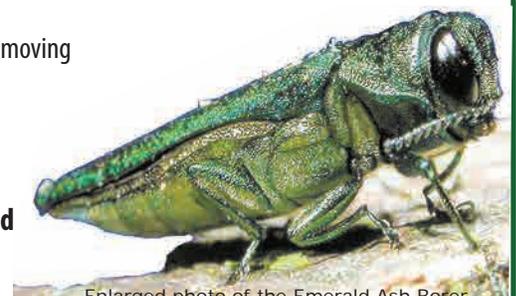
Early signs include notches in leaves, mild defoliation, D-shaped exit-holes and S-shaped notches under the bark. As the infestation progresses, signs include premature leaf colour changes and fallen leaves, dead branches, thinning crowns and cracks in the bark. In advanced stages, the tree will produce shoots and a heavy seed crop.

Symptoms are often hard to distinguish from infestations of other non-pest species so consulting a certified arborist is recommended.

Don't move firewood

Transporting firewood can destroy millions of trees. Follow all rules and regulations related to moving firewood and other wood products within Canada. For more information please visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website www.inspection.gc.ca/pests or call their toll-free number **1-866-463-6017**.

For local information about the Emerald Ash Borer, including your boulevard and trees, please contact your municipality.



Enlarged photo of the Emerald Ash Borer

How to identify an ash tree



'Opposite' Branches: Branches and buds are directly across from each other rather than staggered; however, due to the death and grooming of individual branches, it is possible that not every branch will be opposite.



Compound 'Opposite' Leaves: Leaves contain 5 to 11 leaflets with smooth or toothed margins (tips). Leaflets are positioned opposite with one at the top.



Seeds: When present, seeds usually hang in clusters and are dry and oar-shaped.



Ridged Bark: On mature trees (left), bark is tight and displays patterns of diamond shaped ridges. On young trees (right), bark is relatively smooth.

Photos courtesy of Michigan State University, Forestry Images (www.forestryimages.org).

Landowners

For ash trees on private property, it is recommended that you contact a certified arborist to determine if they are infested and to discuss options.

You may cut trees on your property in compliance with municipal bylaws; however, all ash tree materials and firewood must stay within the boundaries of the **federally regulated quarantine area**. Ash material may also be burned in wood-burning fireplaces.

If you are not in one of the areas regulated for the Emerald Ash Borer and you suspect signs of infestation on your ash trees, contact the CFIA at 1-866-463-6017.

If you are in an area that is regulated for the emerald ash borer and you have recently trimmed or cut down your ash tree, please call your municipality or the CFIA for directions on disposal.

What you can do to help

- Do not import firewood from infested areas in Ontario.
- Do not export ash tree material or firewood to areas outside the infested areas in Ontario.
- Have a certified arborist inspect the ash trees on your property.

FEDERALLY REGULATED QUARANTINE AREAS



Federal regulatory measures prohibit the movement of specific materials including any ash material and firewood of all species from specific areas of Ontario and Quebec. Anyone violating these restrictions is subject to a fine and/or prosecution.

Image map of federally regulated areas courtesy of www.inspection.gc.ca (July 2012)

Boulevard & Park Trees

If you suspect the trees on public boulevards or parkland have been infested with the Emerald Ash Borer please contact your municipality.

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Over the past 60 years, LSRCA has worked with private landowners to plant close to 3 million trees and shrubs on more than 1,300 ha (3,300 ac) across the watershed. Our **Low-Cost Seedlings** and **Tree Reforestation** programs can help property owners within the Lake Simcoe watershed fill the void left behind by the Emerald Ash Borer. If you own over 0.8 hectares (two acres) of property, you may be eligible for:



LSRCA photo

- a grant of up to 50% of the project cost to assist you with tree and shrub planting on your property (funding through the Landowner Environmental Assistance Program (LEAP))
- native tree and shrub seedlings at a low-cost, bulk price

For information about your reforestation project or to order tree seedlings visit www.LSRCA.on.ca/forestry.

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