

# Emerald Ash Borer FAQs

## What is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, invasive, wood-boring beetle that is native to Asia. EAB attacks and kills ash trees. EAB targets ash trees in the *Fraxinus* genus, it does not kill mountain ash (*Sorbus canadensis*). EAB was first discovered in 2002 in Michigan, likely introduced via wood shipping crates originating in China. EAB was found in Wisconsin in 2008 and in Dunn County in 2020.



## Is my tree an ash tree?

Ash trees have branches and buds that are directly across from each other (opposite branching). Ash tree leaves are compound and composed of 5-11 leaflets. Mature ash trees have bark that has diamond shaped ridges but young ash trees have relatively smooth bark.



## How can I tell if my tree is infested with EAB?

If your tree is an ash tree, it is likely that it already is or will be infested by EAB. It is difficult to see the early signs of an EAB infestation. Signs of an EAB infestation include: thinning canopy, bark cracks and splitting, D-shaped holes, epicormic sprouting and loss of bark from woodpecker eating activity. It is unlikely that you will see an adult EAB in your tree. Underneath the bark, you may see the larva or evidence of the larva in S shaped galleries.



## How does the EAB kill ash trees?

EAB larva eat the inner bark of an ash tree, essentially eating away the tree's circulatory system for transporting food and water. Within 2-5 years of infestation the tree dies from lack of food and water. This causes the tree to become very brittle and the tree can easily be blown over or drop limbs.



## If my tree is infested with EAB, can it be saved?

Trees infested with EAB can be treated with a pesticide treatment to prolong their life. However, pesticide treatments need to be repeated every one to three years and are only effective if an ash tree has lost less than 30% of its canopy. If an ash tree has lost more than 30% of its canopy, it is unlikely to survive even with treatment. Untreated ash trees die within 2-5 years of being infested with EAB, depending on the size and health of the tree.

