



Emerald Ash Borer

Common Questions and Answers

Has Emerald Ash Borer been found in our area?

Several years ago Emerald ash borer was identified in a single stand of ash trees in Randolph, Cattaraugus County. More recently, as of August, 2010, it has been found in Scottsville in Monroe County.

How do I identify an Ash tree?

Ash trees have an opposite leaf arrangement (leaves and buds are located directly across from each other). Ash leaves are compound and typically consist of five to 11 leaflets. The edges of the leaflets may be smooth or toothed. Mature ash bark is rough and blocky, with a nearly diamond-shaped pattern. Younger trees have smoother bark. When seeds are present, they appear in paddle-shaped clusters that stay on the tree until late fall or early winter.

What does the insect look like?

It is a slender beetle with metallic green wing covers and a reddish abdomen. It is small enough to fit on a penny.



What are the symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer attack?

Symptoms of emerald ash borer include canopy dieback, beginning in the top one-third of the canopy, sprouting from the base of the tree and trunk, bark splitting, serpentine galleries below the bark, D-shaped exit holes and increased woodpecker activity.

My Ash tree has holes in the trunk; does this mean I have Emerald Ash Borer?

Not necessarily. Several other types of borers affect ash trees, including redheaded ash borer, banded ash borer, and others. Consult an arborist for a diagnosis and evaluation for treatment.

How can I protect my Ash tree?

Prevention is the best protection. Keep trees in good condition, and check regularly for signs of trouble including holes in the trunk, canopy dieback. As a preventative measure, or if the infestation is caught early, professional treatment with systemic insecticides can be effective.