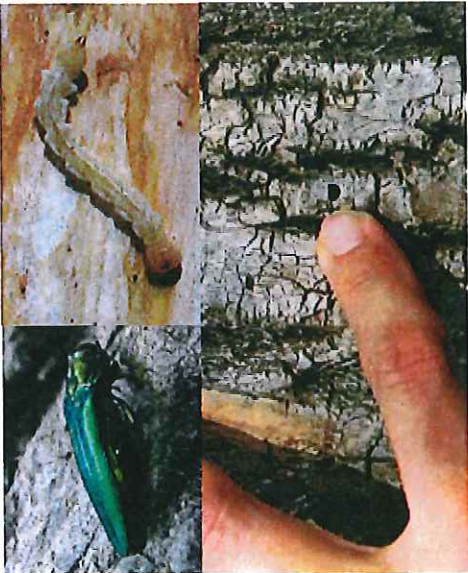


# **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

## **What does EAB Look Like?**

There are many metallic green insects that are common in Wisconsin and often mistaken for EAB.



## **EAB looks different in each of its four life stages**

Emerald ash borer adults are very small, metallic green beetles. They are about the size of a cooked grain of rice: only 3/8 - 1/2 inch long and 1/16 inch wide. Adult emerald ash borers emerge from beneath the bark of ash trees late May through mid-July. They create a D-shaped exit hole as they chew their way out of the tree. Emerald ash borer larvae are white and slightly flattened, with a pair of brown pincher-like appendages on the last segment. Their size varies as they feed and grow under the ash tree's bark. Full grown larvae average 1.5 inches in length. They wind back and forth as they feed, creating S-shaped patterns called galleries under

the bark. Larvae will feed under the bark for one or two years and can survive in green wood, such as firewood, as long as the bark is attached.

Emerald ash borer eggs are very small (1 mm), difficult to find and are rarely seen.

## **What does an Ash Tree Look Like?**

1. It has an **opposite branching pattern**.
2. It has **compound leaves** with 5-11 leaflets.
3. **Ash trees have many small dots (vascular bundles) on their leaf scars**, forming a semi-circle or crescent pattern.
4. White and green ashes have **thick, diamond-patterned bark**, while black ash bark is **thin, ashy-gray, and scaly**

Note: Mountain Ash is not a true ash tree and is not at risk of EAB.



Ash Tree leaflet

## **How Do I Know If My Trees Have EAB?**

The visual symptoms associated with emerald ash borer infestations are nearly identical to other pests and diseases. Therefore, it is important to **look for a combination of at least two or more symptoms or signs** when trying to determine the presence of emerald ash borer in your ash tree.

### **Symptoms**

**Crown dieback:** Dieback of the upper and outer crown. Trees begin to show dead branches throughout the canopy, beginning at the top.

**Epicormic Sprouting:** Trees may sucker excessively both at the base of the tree and on the trunk, often just below where the larvae are feeding.

**Bark splits:** Vertical splits in the bark are caused due to callus tissue that develops around larval galleries.

**Woodpecker feeding:** Feeding is typically evident higher in the tree where the emerald ash borer prefers to attack first.

### **Signs**

**D-shaped emergence holes:** As adults emerge from under the bark they create an emergence hole ~ 1/8 inch in diameter and D-shaped.

**S-shaped larval galleries:** As larvae feed under the bark they wind back and forth, thus creating galleries that are packed with frass and sawdust and follow a serpentine pattern.

**Larvae or adult beetles**

## What is Emerald Ash Borer?

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Adult Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an invasive, wood boring beetle. It kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp) by eating the tissues under the bark.

This metallic green beetle is native to East Asia. It was brought to the United States accidentally, in the wood of shipping crates from China.

EAB is not a threat to human health but it kills our native ash trees of any size, any age, healthy or unhealthy, (according to research by Michigan State University and the US Forest Service).

A tree that has been attacked by EAB can die within 2-4 years. It is estimated that more than 50 million ash trees are dead or dying in the Midwest because of EAB.

## How to Report EAB?

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If you have an EAB infected ash tree report your findings to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection (DATCP) at:

**1-800-462-2803**

or

Fill out the form on the web:

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/reportaab.jsp>

For more information on EAB please see the Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Information Source

Website:

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/>

## Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

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### General Information



### City of Viroqua

Information and Photos adapted from the Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Information Source