



Homeowner's Guide to... *Emerald Ash Borer*

What is the Emerald Ash Borer?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a native insect of Asia, which was first discovered in southeast Michigan and Windsor, Ontario in June 2002. The beetle most likely hitched a ride to North America in ash wood used for pallets and packing material used to crate consumer products shipped to Michigan and Canada from Asia. The adult beetle is dark metallic green, 1/2" long and 1/8" wide. All species of North American ash trees from the *Fraxinus* family (green, white and black) are susceptible to attack by the EAB.



Why should I be concerned?

According to the Pierre Street Tree Inventory conducted in 2004, green ash trees account for 34% of the trees in Pierre's boulevards. If the EAB moved to town, the cost to Pierre would be two-fold. Pierre could lose a third of the trees in the City and face substantial costs associated with the proper removal and disposal of infected and/or dead ash trees.

What should I look for?



The adult beetles cause little damage to ash leaves. The larvae feed on the phloem (inner bark) of the tree, creating S-shaped tunnels. These tunnels disrupt the transportation of nutrients and water to the tree. The canopy of infested trees begins to thin out. One-third to one-half of the branches may die in one year. The tree continues to decline after the symptoms are first observed and eventually die. Although difficult to see, the adult beetles leave a D-shaped exit hole, roughly 1/8" in diameter, when they emerge in June.

Adult beetles can fly three miles. Many infestations started in other states when people moved infested ash nursery trees, logs or firewood to uninfested areas. Transporting ash logs and nursery stock outside the quarantined areas is now regulated and illegal. The EAB may arrive in South Dakota on the back of a camper hauling firewood. As of April 1, 2010, EAB has been discovered in a dozen states and in Canada. States affected are: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and West Virginia.



Who should I contact?

If you have an ash tree with a thinning canopy or notice D-shaped holes in the bark please contact:

Dan McCormick	Todd Kelly
Arbor Board Chair	Parks Supervisor
SD Department Game, Fish & Parks	City of Pierre
773-3594	773-7437

Dan and Todd have been trained to identify the EAB and will contact the appropriate agencies and personnel.

Can I save my ash trees?

Companies are developing products to control EAB. Treatments are recommended only for homeowners in the quarantined area. It is not necessary to treat trees outside of the area. Homeowners will have to weigh the cost of yearly treatments with the value of their ash trees. Chemical treatment may be practical for single specimen trees in boulevards and yards, but may be impractical in windbreak situations.

Where can I find additional information?

www.emeraldashborer.info
SD Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division, 773-3592
Hughes/Stanley County Extension Office, 223-7730

What can I do?

Please do not haul your own firewood for camping and especially, do not transport any wood from a quarantined area. Monitor your ash trees. As you plant new or replacement trees on your property, plant different species. A variety of trees helps create diversity. If one species contracts a disease or a pest, not all your trees will be affected.

This Homeowner's Guide is a cooperative effort between the City of Pierre Arbor Board; Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry, South Dakota Department of Agriculture; Prairie Potters Extension Master Gardeners and the SDSU Cooperative Extension Service.