



# Emerald Ash Borer Fact Sheet

## EAB signs and Management

### What is emerald ash borer?

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive species native to Asia. EAB feeds on the xylem and phloem (nutrient system) of ash trees. Since North America lacks EAB resistant trees or natural predators, the infestations are expected to kill almost all ash within the areas that they spread



### What trees are ash trees?



Ash trees are most easily recognized by the distinctive diamond shaped pattern in their bark as well as large leaves with several oppositely attached leaflets on either side. When their leaves fall in the winter, they tend to carry several bundles of exclamation point shaped seeds.

### Check your firewood

On its own, EAB will only travel about one half to one mile from its host site each year. The spread has been greatly accelerated from human intervention carrying affected firewood and nursery stock. If firewood must be moved from an area with known EAB infestations, ensure that it has undergone heat treatment and is certified ready to move by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture



## Continued EAB signs and management:

### Signs of EAB

**Thinning of tree canopy:** The most recognizable sign of EAB on the ground is the thinning of tree canopy (loss of leaves in the upper branches).

**Epicormic sprouts:** Sprouts that occur from buds at the bottom of the tree. Normally, these buds are suppressed by hormones in the upper part of the tree. Stress occurring higher in the tree from causes such as an infestation or lack of resources will create this growth.

**Bark splitting and S-shaped galleries:** As a response to feeding on the interior of the bark, the bark of the ash tree will usually split to reveal a feeding gallery on the inside of the tree. This symptom is usually seen later in the infestation cycle since most infestations occur in the top of the tree.

#### **Bark blinding and woodpecker holes:**

Woodpeckers will remove bark from the ash trees and create shallow holes to prey on EAB. This usually occurs later in the infestation cycle when larvae are present in sufficient numbers for woodpecker activity to be noticeable.



### ***How should I manage EAB?***

#### **Have a tree inventory or survey created**

Having an experienced professional survey the trees in your forest or yard and create a report or management plan is a good way to have an idea of what ash trees are on a property and how to plan for EAB

#### **Preemptively inject or remove healthy ash**

Valuable or older trees should be injected if they are within an infested area. Injection can prevent an infestation but not stop one that has already occurred. Removing ash trees preemptively can help avoid the sudden costs of immediate removal or damages.

#### **Report any symptoms or sighting to the DNR at [reportapest@state.mn.us](mailto:reportapest@state.mn.us) or call 888-545-6684**

Reporting this helps for the development of management strategies across regions and awareness of current spread.

#### **Get the infested tree removed**

Infested ash trees are particularly vulnerable to wind and are at a high risk of dropping branches or causing property damage.

