

# Your Ash Tree & EAB

A checklist from The Morton Arboretum for homeowners dealing with the destructive **EMERALD ASH BORER**.



## EAB is here. What will you do?

Millions of native ash trees are dying. Most will be killed by a tiny, metallic green beetle, the emerald ash borer (EAB).

EAB is spreading relentlessly. Although there are treatments, there is no known "silver bullet" for eradicating it.

The adult EAB beetle lays eggs on the bark of ash trees. The eggs hatch, and the young EAB larvae feed under the bark of the tree. They create channels or galleries, and eventually kill it. The tree may look healthy, but it is being strangled.

In your town, 10 to 40 percent of the trees may be ash. You may even have one in your yard.



Adult size EAB (Fig.1)



Larval galleries (Fig.2)



EAB hole in bark (Fig.3)



EAB larvae (Fig.4)

This checklist will help you understand your options to treat your ash tree or remove it.

## 1} Check your yard today.

Do you have an ash tree? Look for these characteristics:



Compound leaf (Fig.5)



Distinctive bark pattern (Fig.6)



Ash flower gall (Fig.7)

- **opposite branching:** Each branch is paired with another directly across from it on the same limb.
- **compound leaves:** A leaf is made up of 5 to 11 small leaflets with a terminal leaflet pointing outward from the tip of the leaf.
- **distinctive bark pattern:** Diamond-shaped furrows or "X" patterns are most visible on mature trees.
- **ash flower gall:** Some ash develop black or brown clustered balls from mutated flowers in spring that last into winter.

## 2} Look for symptoms of EAB.

- The tree canopy thins or dies back as nutrients and water can't reach the top.
- Suckers or new young branches sprout from the tree's trunk, lower branches, or base.
- Woodpeckers make holes in the bark or branches as they look for an EAB lunch.

Noticing symptoms early allows a greater range of management options. Healthy ash trees growing near infested ones are probably infested too.



Canopy dieback (Fig.8)

Suckers (Fig.9)

Woodpecker damage (Fig.10)

## 3} Contact your municipality.

- Learn about your municipality's EAB management plan. Trees in your parkway or along your street may belong to your community.
- Contact your municipality to learn typical price ranges for treatment or removals. In some instances, your community may have a contracted price for these services that is also available to residents.

## 4} Work with a professional.

- Get proposals from several licensed and insured companies. Each proposal should include the same services, such as chemical, brand name, method of application, concentration, treatment frequency, stump grinding, hauling, or disposal.
- Hire an ISA certified arborist and a certified pesticide applicator who are registered with your state's Department of Agriculture for management of EAB infested trees or materials.
- Collaborate with your neighbors. The contractor may provide a better price for multiple trees in the same location.

## 5 } Consider your options.

Even if your ash tree isn't showing signs of stress, NOW is the time to consider your options.

### A. Do you protect it?

If your tree has significant landscape or personal value, you may wish to treat it with insecticide. The sooner you start, the more likely the treatment will be successful. You'll need to treat the tree over its lifetime and the cost may be equal to that of removing and replacing the tree. However, you'll preserve its beauty and all its benefits (property value, shade, home energy savings, pollution removal, etc.) See "6: Insecticide Options."

### B. Do you cut it down and replace it?

If more than 30 percent of your tree's canopy has died, EAB has significantly damaged it. It may be better to remove it. If left untreated, your tree will soon become a hazard by dropping limbs or even falling over.

~ or ~

Want to replace it? Choose a tree that is suitable for your growing conditions and that isn't common on your street. *Why?* Planting a variety of species limits the damage of future infestations by other insects or diseases. Consult with your municipality or the Arboretum website for recommended or approved tree species.

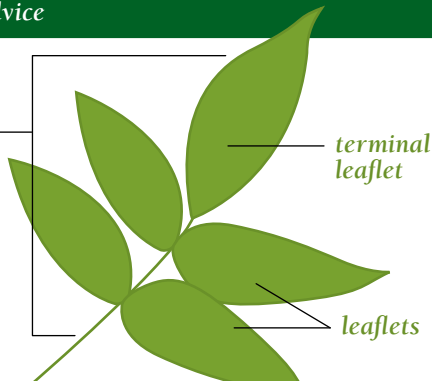
## Be a bug buster!

The major way EAB spreads is by people moving EAB-infested firewood to an EAB-free area. Purchase firewood near the place you burn it, ask if the firewood is state-certified EAB-free, and burn it all before leaving.



For more information on EAB, and a diverse list of replacement trees, visit [mortonarb.org/plantadvice](http://mortonarb.org/plantadvice)

compound leaf



terminal leaflet

leaflets

## 6 } Review insecticide options.

Timing recommendations may need to be adjusted for geographical location and seasonal variability.

APPLICATION METHOD	BRAND NAME	INSECTICIDE ACTIVE INGREDIENT	RECOMMENDED TIMING OF APPLICATION	SUGGESTED TREE SIZE (DBH*)	CHEMICAL LIFE (APPLICATION)
Soil injection or drench	Bayer Advanced/Ferti-lome	Imidacloprid	April – June September – November	Up to 15" DBH	1 year
Granular soil drench	Green Light Product Line	Dinotefuran	April – June	Up to 12" DBH	1 year
Trunk injection	TREE-age	Emamectin benzoate	Leaf Out May – August	15"+ DBH	2 years
Soil injection or drench	Merit/Xytect	Imidacloprid	April – June September – November	Up to 20" DBH	1 year
Soil injection or basal trunk spray	Safari or Transect	Dinotefuran	April – June	Up to 12" DBH	1 year

### CHART KEY

Find it at your local hardware store or garden center.

Call a professional, licensed or certified pesticide applicator. These treatments are restricted products and not available to homeowners.

Information based on the *Emerald Ash Borer: Homeowner Guide to Insecticide Selection, Use, and Environmental Protection* (Minnesota Department of Agriculture)  
\*DBH: Diameter at Breast Height is the diameter (circumference divided by 3.14) of tree taken at 4.5' off the ground.

## Get the word out!

Share this brochure with family, friends, and neighbors so they can learn about the threat of emerald ash borer (EAB) now. They'll have a better chance of protecting their trees, or more time to budget for their removal.

## Learn more.

For additional information on how EAB is impacting your state, contact your State Department of Agriculture or local cooperative extension office.

For expert advice on tree care, contact the Plant Clinic at The Morton Arboretum.

email: [plantclinic@mortonarb.org](mailto:plantclinic@mortonarb.org)

phone: 630-719-2424

web: [mortonarb.org/plantadvice](http://mortonarb.org/plantadvice)

For copies contact: Community Trees Program  
email: [communitytrees@mortonarb.org](mailto:communitytrees@mortonarb.org)

## THE MISSION OF THE MORTON ARBORETUM

The mission of The Morton Arboretum is to collect and study trees, shrubs, and other plants from around the world, to display them across naturally beautiful landscapes for people to study and enjoy, and to learn how to grow them in ways that enhance our environment.

Our goal is to encourage the planting and conservation of trees and other plants for a greener, healthier, and more beautiful world.



4100 Illinois Route 53  
Lisle, IL 60532

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In keeping with The Morton Arboretum's goal to plant and conserve trees, this paper contains post-consumer fiber.  
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