

Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive pest that threatens ALL species of ash trees. In Wisconsin, it is estimated that one-fifth of all street trees are ash. EAB was found in 2013 in Dane county and surrounding counties.

Proper Identification

Ash trees can be identified by their opposite branching habit, a compound leaf structure (multiple leaflets per bud) and heavily furrowed, dark grey, V-shaped bark.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a 1/2" long, metallic green beetle. From May-July, adults emerge to mate, leaving a distinctive D-shaped exit hole. Eggs are laid in the crevices of bark and after hatching the larvae chew into the tree, where they feed and grow over a one-to-two year period. This feeding creates S-shaped galleries in the tissue right under the bark, inhibiting the tree's ability to move water and nutrients between the roots and the rest of the tree, causing decline and death.



Signs of EAB: a thinning canopy; D-shaped exit holes; new branches sprouting low on the trunk; cracked, peeling bark; increased woodpecker feeding on the insect larvae beneath the bark.

Treatment Protocol

The good news is that treatments are effective.

Evaluate your trees with our certified arborists to determine what trees are worth treating.

Treat every two-years with a trunk injected insecticide. If treatment is not a viable choice, consider:

Removal and Replacement with a more appropriate species.

Hire the Professionals

Our certified arborists have over 130 years of combined experience in plant health care and tree work. They will help protect all your valuable landscape assets.

To learn more about our plant health care services:



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