



Ahlum & Arbor
TREE PRESERVATION



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Emerald Ash Borer

What is Emerald Ash Borer?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle from Asia that has killed millions of ash trees in the Midwest and Canada since 2002. The half-inch long adult beetle has metallic green wings and feeds on the leaves, but this feeding causes little damage to trees. It is the worm-like larvae, which feed under the bark in the xylem layer, that pose a danger to tree health. This feeding disrupts the movement of water and nutrients within the tree by severing its transport vessels (much like cutting a hose), causing the tree to die within a few years after infestation with symptoms that closely mimic drought stress.

Are my trees at risk?

The EAB only attacks ash trees, but ash trees are found extensively in residential and commercial landscapes and in natural woodlands. The Department of Natural Resources estimates that there are over 5 billion ash trees in the state of Ohio, and in some neighborhoods they comprise 25% or more of the trees in the urban forest. Correct identification of the trees in your landscape is the first step to determining how EAB will impact your property. Mature ash trees have diamond-shaped bark patterns and compound leaves composed of 5 to 11 leaflets.

When and why to treat

Preventative treatments are most effective as they will manage EAB during the initial infestation when the population is small and most vulnerable and before it has done any irreparable damage to

the tree. It is recommended that treatments begin when EAB are discovered within a 15 mile radius of your location. To determine the correct course of action, Arborists will consider the overall health of the ash tree(s) and its importance in your landscape. Legacy trees are trees that provide significant shade and aesthetic value to your property and healthy, vigorous trees are ideal for treatment. Removal and replacement with another species may be the best alternative for trees that are significantly infested or declining. If removal is the decided course of action, it is recommended to have the service performed before the tree dies. Dead ash trees cause additional problems and expense as they become brittle very quickly, necessitating the use of specialized equipment such as bucket trucks and cranes for removal.

Management options

Treatments are available that may help manage Emerald Ash Borer infestation of your ash trees. Once treatments have begun, they must be continued in order to maintain effectiveness.

We recommend one of two treatment options for EAB management. One is a trunk injection of Emamectin Benzoate, the other is a soil injection of Imidiclopid. Both methods work well as a preventative, while the trunk injection is the treatment of choice for trees that may already be infested. The soil injection needs to be done annually. The trunk injection needs to be done every 2 years

Give us a call to have an arborist come out to help you determine the best management plan for you.

Ahlum & Arbor Tree Preservation is a family-owned, full-service arboricultural firm serving both residential and commercial clients in central Ohio for more than 30 years. Ahlum & Arbor's staff includes 13 certified arborists and 7 state licensed pesticide applicators.



*Pictures below –
Left: S-shaped larvae gallery
Middle: Ash tree showing infestation symptoms
Right: Emerald Ash Borer D-shaped exit hole*

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