

Emerald Ash Borer

WHAT ARE THEY AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

Emerald ash borer, or *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, was first discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in 2002 and can now be found in 35 states and 5 Canadian provinces. In their adult stage, they nibble on ash foliage, causing little damage; however, as larvae they feed on the inner bark of ash trees, making it so that the trees cannot transport water and nutrients. These exotic beetles are native to Asia and likely arrived in the US on wood packing material shipped overseas.



EFFECTS AS AN INVASIVE SPECIES

Since first being discovered in 2002, the emerald ash borer has:

- Destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in Michigan and hundreds of millions in North America
- Cost hundreds of millions of dollars in damages to various industries
- Damaged ecosystems across the US and Canada

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW?

- An adult beetle is about ½-inch long and a metallic green color
- They only attack ash trees, preferring green ash and black ash, while blue ash shows some resistance to them
- They leave D-shaped holes in the bark when emerging from the tree
- Woodpeckers eat their larvae, so heavy woodpecker damage may indicate an infestation
- Firewood cannot be moved across areas experiencing an emerald ash borer quarantine

