

Help Stop the Emerald Ash Borer in Michigan!



What are emerald ash borers?

Emerald ash borers (EAB) are small (about ½-inch long), jewel-toned green insects that are native to China and eastern Asia. They feed on all varieties of ash trees except mountain ash, killing them within one to three years of infestation. The borers were first discovered in North America in 2002 in southeastern Michigan and parts of Ontario, Canada. Today they have spread to several other states.

Why should I care?

In 2001, ash accounted for more than 149 million cubic feet of timber products nationwide. More than 700 million ash trees live in Michigan alone. All of them could die from being attacked by emerald ash borers, leaving our streets, backyards and forests barer, less inviting places for humans and wildlife.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the ash quarantine has cost Michigan nurseries about \$2 million in sales. Counting timber, nursery stock and landscaping, as much as \$11.7 billion in ash trees are at

risk in southeastern Michigan alone. Some estimates have suggested a widespread outbreak could cost the nation \$1 trillion.

What can I do?

Moving firewood from place to place also moves emerald ash borer and other pests that threaten our trees. Most of southeastern Michigan is under a quarantine that makes it illegal to move ash material and firewood to unquarantined parts of the state. There are heavy penalties for violators of the quarantine. With your help, we can educate more people about the quarantine and how to treat ash trees and slow the spread of EAB in Michigan.

Millions of dollars have already been spent in Michigan to deal with these pests. But there is still no cure for trees infested with EAB; eventually they will die. That's why it's so for you and other Michigan 4-H'ers to help stop the spread of the EAB before more ash trees die by:

- Learning more about EAB from your county MSU Extension office, <http://www.emeraldashborer.info> and <http://www.michigan.gov/mda> (look for links to "emerald ash borer" or search on the term).
- Sharing what you learn with family and friends about the

importance of not moving firewood, how to identify ash trees and EAB damage, and how to treat ash trees.

- Picking up educational posters from your county MSU Extension office to distribute to your friends and family or post at local businesses.
- Creating an EAB exhibit at your county fair.
- Setting up an education table at a local business or public place. You can hand out bulletins and answer people's EAB questions.
- Presenting information about EAB at meetings of social, civic and service clubs in your area.
- Volunteering to help your county MSU Extension staff who work with EAB education projects.

Contact Information

To find out more about emerald ash borers and how you can help slow their spread in Michigan, visit <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>, contact your county MSU Extension office (visit the MSU Extension Web site at <http://www.msue.msu.edu> and click on "Offices, Staff") or:

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