

Stop

The Invasion



Photographs courtesy of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Forestry, Bugwood.org and Leah Bauer, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Bugwood.org

Emerald Ash Borer

Agrilus planipennis

Report Sightings

@

InvasivesSpecies.wa.gov

July 2017



What are they?

The emerald ash borer is a small Asian wood-boring beetle that can attack and kill ash trees (genus *Fraxinus*). The larvae burrow under the tree's bark and eat the sapwood. These damaged layers of tissue below the bark are critical to transporting water and nutrients throughout the tree. Once damaged, the layers can't transport water and nutrients, causing the leaves and tree to die gradually.

Are they here yet?

No, they aren't established in Washington. Nonetheless, the risk of introduction is real, as they are established elsewhere in North America.

Why should I care?

They have killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America and they are gradually moving westward all the time. They have the potential to devastate Washington's forests and sensitive riparian areas. In addition, the potential costs of lengthy quarantines or replacing countless dead trees after an emerald ash borer outbreak could be hefty.

What should I do if I find one?

Report a sighting online at www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml.

How can we stop them?

Emerald ash borers can be transported in wooden materials such as shipping pallets, logs, and firewood. If you are outside of Washington, never bring back items capable of containing this pest from emerald ash borer quarantine areas, and do not transport wood, including firewood for camping, from the area where it was harvested. Instead, buy firewood when you get to your camping destination. [Buy it where you burn it.](#)



Photograph courtesy of Michigan Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

What are their characteristics?

- Adults are a jewel-like metallic green.
- Elongated narrow shape, about ½ inch long.
- Woodpeckers eat emerald ash borer larvae, so heavy woodpecker damage on an ash tree is a possible sign of infestation.
- When the new adult emerges from the tree trunk in the spring, it leaves a D-shaped exit hole that is rounder on one side and flatter on the other.

How do I distinguish them from native species?

There are a few native species of beetles in the genus *Agrilus* in the West that closely resemble the emerald ash borer in shape and size, such as the bronze birch borer (*A. anxius*), but the natives do not attack ash trees and they are not metallic green. There are also some metallic green native wood borers in the same family that are larger and wider, such as the golden buprestid (*Buprestis aurulenta*). When in doubt, collect a specimen to have identified by an expert.

Where do I get more information?

- Minnesota DNR: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/index.html
- Emerald Ash Borer Information Network: www.emeraldashborer.info

**Report
Sightings**

@

invasivespecies.wa.gov