

You Can Help Fight the Emerald Ash Borer

- **Contact the Urban Forest Pest Program if you see this insect or damage caused by it.** Call 703-324-5304, TTY 711, or e-mail pestmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.
- **Don't transport firewood**, from your home to a campsite or anywhere else. **Taking firewood out of Fairfax County is prohibited by a state quarantine.** Instead, use local sources of firewood when camping.
- **Don't take ash tree branches, logs, stumps or roots out of Fairfax County.** This is prohibited by a state quarantine. However, you can safely throw out ash trees with your regular yard waste.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication
July 2008



Fairfax County Department of Public Works
Urban Forest Management Division
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 518
Fairfax, Virginia
22035

Phone: 703-324-5304, TTY 711
Fax: 703-803-7769
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/pests.htm

Photos were provided courtesy of www.invasive.org and David Cappaert; Howard Russel, Michigan State University; Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service; Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service; Ed Czerwinski, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; Michigan Department of Agriculture; and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Help stop the spread of EMERALD ASH BORER



What You Should Know About the Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer is a wood-boring insect that only kills ash trees. This insect, which is native to Asia, was accidentally introduced into this country through wood packaging material.

The borer is in Fairfax County — but you help prevent it from spreading across the state. This insect is a threat because it has killed millions of ash trees in the Midwest.

It Only Attacks Ash Trees

Ashes have distinctive leaves and bark, as shown here. Ash trees have five, seven or nine leaflets per leaf stem, and leaves are located directly across from each other.

Trees under stress are more susceptible to insects and diseases. Properly planting and maintaining your trees can help prevent insect infestations.



Ash Bark



Green Ash Leaf



Ash Tree

What Does It Look Like?

The larvae, or immature stage of the borer, are creamy white in color and live under the bark. When they emerge, the adult insects are a half-inch long and dark metallic green in color.



Larva



Adult Beetle



What Are the Signs of Damage?



Canopy dieback begins in top 1/3 of canopy and progresses until tree is bare.

Borers can be difficult to detect — usually going unseen until the upper third of a tree thins and dies back. Often, this is followed by a large number of new branches growing from below the dead portions of the tree.

Damage by Emerald Ash Borers is almost always fatal.

Larval feeding can cause vertical splits on bark. As they feed, the larvae create serpentine or “s”-shaped tunnels beneath the bark.



Larval Feeding Galleries



Woodpecker Damage

Woodpeckers like to eat the larvae, and woodpecker damage may be a sign of infestation.

Other signs include exit holes, which look like the capital letter “D,” created when adults emerge.



“D”-Shaped Exit Hole