

Emerald Ash Borer: Tree-killing pest

Written by United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
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You may have heard about a tree-killing pest in Minnesota called Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB is an invasive, non-native insect that feeds on ash trees. It has ravaged ash trees in other states killing millions of trees. EAB was first found in St. Paul in 2009; and in Minneapolis in 2010. In 2010 EAB infested trees were also found in SE Minnesota in Houston County, and in Winona County in 2011. The most recent find this summer was in Ramsey County in Roseville. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is maintaining a map of EAB infestation sites across the state. You can check if EAB has been found in your area at: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.aspx>

In order to slow the spread of EAB, the State of Minnesota has banned moving all hardwood firewood, and any parts of ash tree including logs, branches, or ash wood chips from Hennepin, Ramsey, Houston, and Winona Counties.

If you own an ash tree, you will want to start looking for signs of EAB on your tree and in your neighborhood; common signs include:

- Increased woodpecker activity (they feed on EAB larvae under the bark)
- Vertical cracks through the bark
- Dying branches in the upper canopy of the tree
- Sprouts emerging from the trunk or base of the tree.

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<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/foresthealth/pests/emeraldashborer/>