

CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES

Emerald Ash Borer



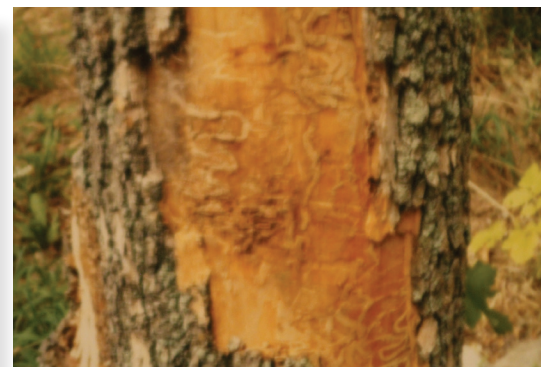
This beetle is a serious pest of ash trees. In Michigan we have four species of ash trees. Green ash, white ash, and black ash are all at high risk for this pest. Blue ash, found mainly in the southern part of the state, is more resistant to this pest. Mountain ash is NOT related to ash trees and is NOT affected. The beetle arrived here from Asia in the mid 1990's. It is now present in all counties in the lower peninsula of Michigan.

The beetles damage the trees as larvae feeding underneath the bark. If there are enough larvae the damage can disrupt nutrient flow with the tree, and even kill the tree. The first signs that the tree is infested may be the activity of woodpeckers hunting for the larvae. The adult insect will feed on leaves in the canopy and then lay eggs on the bark in midsummer. Larvae remain inside the tree for 1 to 2 years.

To protect ash trees from emerald ash borer we use treatments that target the larvae inside the tree and/or the adults. Fertilizing and watering your ash trees is also important to help trees recover from feeding damage already taking place. Treatment works best when started before the damage is visible, but trees with less than 20% canopy dieback can usually be saved.

To have your tree evaluated contact Jim Scarlata for a consultation.

*James Scarlata is a Forest Ecologist
and Registered Consulting Arborist #407*



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