

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Manitoba

What is EAB?

Emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is a highly destructive invasive wood boring beetle that kills ash trees when the larvae (caterpillars) feed in the nutrient conducting vessels of the trees. First detected in Ontario and Michigan in 2002, EAB was likely introduced to North America through ash packing material used in shipments from China.

Where has EAB been found?

EAB can be found in Ontario, Quebec and a number of states in the US. In November of 2017, EAB was found for the first time in Manitoba, in Winnipeg. At this time, it has not been found in any other Manitoba locations.

What does EAB look like?

The adult beetle is dark metallic green in colour and about 1.0 centimetre long.

What trees will EAB attack?

EAB attacks and kills all ash trees. (Showy mountain ash is not a true ash and is not vulnerable to EAB).

What is the problem with EAB?

Emerald ash borer is an invasive forest pest that has killed millions of ash trees in North America causing serious environmental and economic impacts. At low levels EAB is hard to detect, but after the population builds, ash trees start dying.

Ash trees have been widely planted in Manitoba communities as a replacement for elms lost to Dutch elm disease and are a major component of many urban forests. Ash trees have also been planted in rural shelterbelts and grow here naturally in forests and riverbank areas.

How is EAB different from Dutch elm disease (DED)?

DED is a fungus that is carried and spread from tree to tree by the native elm bark beetle. The beetle itself does not harm the tree. Ash trees affected by EAB die as a direct result of larval feeding under the bark of the tree.

Unlike trees affected by DED, which can usually be noticed in the first year of infection through visual surveys, EAB is initially difficult to detect. If a tree is confirmed to have EAB there is a high probability that neighbouring trees are also affected even if the trees appear to be healthy.

How does EAB spread?

While EAB will spread naturally, it is spread faster through the movement of infested ash material, such as firewood and nursery stock, into un-infested areas.

What is being done about EAB?

To slow the spread of this invasive forest pest the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has placed a regulated area around the city of Winnipeg. The regulated area restricts the movement of firewood of all species, ash wood and ash nursery stock to areas outside of Winnipeg.

The City of Winnipeg is working with the Manitoba government and the CFIA to determine the extent of the infestation and to slow the spread of this damaging pest.

Additional steps will include:

- surveys to determine the extent of the infestation
- public education and outreach
- research activities

How does the EAB regulated area around the city of Winnipeg affect residents and business owners in the area?

It is prohibited to move firewood of all species, ash trees, ash nursery stock or ash wood (including wood chips, wood packaging or dunnage), out of the regulated area without written permission from the CFIA. Moving these materials without permission could lead to fines and/or prosecution.

Businesses that regularly move the above material from the city of Winnipeg to other areas should contact the CFIA to become part of the [EAB compliance program](#).

How do I identify an ash tree?

Green and black ash are native to Manitoba. Manchurian ash/hybrids have also been planted in Manitoba.

- [Manitoba Native Tree Guide](#)

What are the signs and symptoms of EAB in a tree?

- [Emerald Ash Borer in Manitoba](#)
- [A Visual Guide to Detecting Emeralds Ash Borer Damage](#)

How can I protect my ash trees?

Insecticides are available to protect trees from EAB. As treatments can be somewhat damaging to the tree, it is not recommended that you treat your ash trees until EAB is found in your community or nearby. It is recommended that you get quotes from several tree care companies when seeking treatment options. All pesticide treatments must be completed by a licensed pesticide applicator.

If my tree is confirmed to have EAB what are my options?

Current options available include tree removal or insecticide application. It is recommended that you get quotes from several tree care companies when seeking removal and/or insecticide options. All pesticide treatments must be completed by a licensed pesticide applicator.

What if I do nothing about EAB affected trees on my property?

Ash trees affected by EAB die in one to five years. While in some natural settings having a standing dead tree can provide wildlife habitat, in an urban environment dead trees can fall, potentially causing personal injury or property damage. Trees killed by EAB dry out very fast when not removed right away making removal more difficult and costly.

How can I help slow the spread of EAB in Manitoba?

Be vigilant. Learn about the signs and symptoms of EAB and report symptomatic ash trees or ash products to the Go Wild Manitoba App or Manitoba Sustainable Development's tree line at 204 945-7866 or by email treeline@gov.mb.ca

If you are within the City of Winnipeg please call 311.

More information on EAB can be found at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/forestry/health/eab.html>

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/stopthespread/fis/eab/index.html>

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/fire-insects-disturbances/top-insects/13395>

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/insects/emerald-ash-borer/faq/eng/1337355937903/1337356019017>