



Emerald Ash Borer Information

(Updated 3.25.2010)

History

The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis Fairmaire*) was thought to have come over from Asia in wood pallets in the late 1990's and was first confirmed in North America in 2002. Early infestations of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) took place in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, Virginia and Ontario, Canada. In North America, EAB attacks and kills healthy *ash* trees. This invasive pest is so aggressive that virtually all ash trees are at risk, and trees may die within two to four years after they become infested. The natural spread of the EAB is about half of a mile or less annually; however, humans can greatly accelerate its spread through the movement of **firewood** and **nursery stock** outside infested areas. This is the primary reason why the EAB has spread to other neighboring states so quickly. Multiple infestations of the EAB within Cook County led to the quarantine of the entire county on July 19, 2007. In addition, Boone, Dekalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, McHenry, Putnam, Will and Winnebago Counties are also under the quarantine. Confirmation of the pest in neighboring communities of Wilmette and Evanston occurred in the spring of 2006. EAB was confirmed within the borders of Skokie in the spring of 2007 primarily in the Northeast corner of the Village. Due to the strong flying capabilities and difficulty in detecting the small insect, the ability to keep it from spreading has been largely ineffective to date.

EAB Identification

Adults are bright metallic green beetles that are approximately 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide and may have some black patches on the head and abdomen. They are present from mid-May through late July at beetles. Larvae (borer) reach a length of approximately 1 inch and are creamy white, flattened, and segmented. EAB adult beetles emerge from infested trees beginning in mid-May, peaking in late June, and continue emerging until late July. Females lay approximately 75 eggs on the bark of branches and trunks from late-May through July with hatch occurring in about one week. Larvae tunnel into the cambium area between the inner bark and outer ring of wood, feed on phloem and outer sapwood, and produce serpentine galleries (tunnels) that disrupt the flow of water and nutrients within the tree. Feeding is completed in autumn and larvae over winter in shallow chambers inside the tree.



Emerald Ash Beetle (adult)

Serpentine Galleries (larva)

Borer Larva (growth stages)

Current Conditions

In 2008, EAB proliferated into multiple locations within the Village of Skokie including a confirmed outbreak at Gleiss Park (Crawford Ave. & Lyons St.) and Skokie Sports Park (McCormick Blvd & Oakton St.). EAB populations at Gleiss Park rose to significant levels that required removal of all ash trees within the park to prevent further spread. The District injected 44 ash trees in 2009 in an attempt to save some ash trees of value before they become infected. In late 2009 evidence that the insect had spread throughout the Village became more evident. Pest management surveys of the parks determined that the insect was present throughout most of Skokie with the North and Eastern sections of Skokie showing the most significant signs of damage. All other areas in Skokie are showing some evidence of EAB infection and in late 2009/early 2010 many trees were removed from Park property (Laramie, Sequoia, Central, Hamlin, Lawler, Devonshire and, McNally Parks) due to widespread infestation and damage to ash trees in these parks. The Village of Skokie has also removed a significant number of infected parkway trees throughout Skokie.

Management Plan

The Skokie Park District is committed to maintaining the integrity of its tree population in its Parks and as such, will take the appropriate steps to limit the spread of the EAB. The District will incorporate treatment methods when warranted, in an effort to save some of the ash trees. When trees need to be removed, the District will develop a short-term tree replacement plan to limit the impact of this loss. This plan will incorporate a diverse species of trees to limit the impact any future pests would have on the tree population.

Moving of Firewood

Please do not transport firewood as this is a major contributing factor in the spread of this insect! There is currently quarantine in Northeastern Illinois that prohibits movement of infected plants/firewood outside of the area.

Ash Trees on Private Property

All Ash species are susceptible to the pest and *will likely become infected* over the next three to five years. Once your tree is infected and visible signs appear, large branches will start to die back within a short time period and the tree ***will die off entirely within two to three years*** after visual signs appear unless control measures are taken. If you have an ash tree on your property that you value and would like to save, there are new treatments available that have shown good results in controlling this pest. I would however recommend that control measures be taken ***before*** the visible signs appear. Once damage becomes visible, it is more likely that some residual damage will occur and branches may need to be removed even if the tree is to be treated. This is due to some lag time before the product has a chance to work. This especially applies to trees that are close to your house because dying or dead branches are more susceptible to breakage and could fall and injure people and/or damage property. Be aware that most treatments require an annual or semi-annual application/injection to assure maximum protection

therefore a long term commitment factor is required to save the tree. If this is the case, please contact a certified arborist to explore your options before your only option is removal!

Signs of EAB Damage in Ash Trees



Dieback of Branches

Woodpecker Damage

Dead Tree Canopy (basal suckering)

For additional information on this subject please visit the following links:

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/eab/?pg=1>

<http://www.illinoisarborist.org/EAB%20Brochure%20final.pdf>



If you have any questions or would like to report any suspicious looking ash trees, please contact Stephen Ames at (847) 674-1500, ext. 2804.