

EAB AWARENESS WEEK 2017

Talking Points

The week of May 21-27, 2017 is Emerald Ash borer Awareness Week.

This is an effort to increase public awareness about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the threat it poses to North Dakota and to encourage behavior to prevent or delay its introduction.

A social media campaign to push information to the public will be implemented during EAB Awareness Week using Facebook pages and websites of participating agencies.

City Foresters in a number of North Dakota communities may also be placing message ribbons on public ash trees to give some perspective of the potential impact of EAB and what citizens can do.

What is Emerald Ash Borer and what does it do?

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a highly invasive, non-native insect that attacks and kills all species of ash trees native to the US. It is native to Asia and was first detected in the summer of 2002 feeding on ash trees in the Detroit area and adjacent areas in Ontario. It originated in Asia and was most likely introduced in infested solid wood packing material associated with cargo shipments.
- EAB attacks only ash trees. The larvae feed under the bark disrupting the movement of water and nutrients, killing the tree within several years.
- Signs of EAB's effect on ash trees include dead branches, vertical bark splits, S-shaped larval feeding galleries, new sprouts from the trunk and 1/8-inch, D-shaped holes where insects have exited.

- There are several other pests or environmental conditions that could cause symptoms similar to those caused by EAB, so consulting an expert is recommended.

Where has EAB been detected and what has it done?

EAB is known to occur in 30 states and 2 Canadian provinces. It is found in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin in the U.S.

- EAB has not been detected in North Dakota but has been found in neighboring Minnesota with discoveries in St. Paul in 2009 and Minneapolis in 2010. EAB is also found in Superior WI and Duluth MN, which is almost as close as the infestations in the Twin Cities. North Dakota could be next.
- EAB has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in the states where it has been found.
- EAB has cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries hundreds of millions of dollars – this number is rising rapidly.
- EAB has caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to enforce quarantines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB is known to occur.

How does EAB spread?

- EAB spreads slowly on its own but can be moved great distances by people in ash firewood, ash nursery stock and untreated ash wood products from infested areas.

What are the symptoms of EAB?

- There are many causes for decline of ash trees but there is information available to help determine if the cause may be EAB. See the North Dakota Department of Agriculture or North Dakota Forest Service websites for additional information.
- Some of the typical symptoms that may indicate EAB include:
 - Branch dieback
 - Sprouts on roots and lower trunk
 - Vertical bark splits with S shaped tunnels just under the bark
 - Increased woodpecker activity
 - D-shaped exit holes (1/8 inch) in the bark made by adult beetles as they leave the tree to mate.

Is there a treatment?

- Pesticides may provide protection, but are not an effective cure. Treatment is not recommended unless presence of the beetle has been confirmed within a 15-mile radius. State registered pesticides must be used with strict adherence to the label.
- Biocontrol stingless wasps that attack EAB eggs and larva are being used on a trial basis in some areas.

What can citizens do?

- Don't bring firewood into North Dakota and if you know people coming to North Dakota, tell them to leave their firewood at home. Use local sources instead.

- Diversify tree plantings by using the largest possible variety of tree genera and species.
EAB attacks only ash trees (in the genus *Fraxinus*) so plant trees other than ash.
- Learn the symptoms of EAB and report potential sightings.

Additional information is available at:

North Dakota Department of Agriculture:

<http://www.nd.gov/ndda/pest/emerald-ash-borer-eab>

North Dakota Forest Service:

www.NDinvasives.org

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndfs/programs-and-services/tree-health-and-care>

Emerald Ash Borer Info: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>



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