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SHADE TREE COMMISSION
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NOTICE TO RESIDENTS/PROPERTY OWNERS BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE EMERALD ASH BORER!

EMERALD ASH BORER GETS CLOSER TO HOME!

Introducing the Emerald Ash Borer to Plainfield

On behalf of the Shade Tree Commission and the Planning Division, we ask that Plainfield residents accept this note as an advisory to pay very close attention to the ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in the community. There is a destructive beetle –the Emerald Ash Borer that is killing all species of ash trees in over 20 states, including New Jersey. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture confirmed in late May that the ash borer had attacked a stand of ash trees at a commercial site in Somerset County. The Borer has killed over ten million ash trees since 2003 when this insect first arrived in America from Asia. Understanding the effect that this epidemic has on our environment is vital because the Emerald ash Borer (EAB) has the potential to wipe out the entire species of ash trees.

ASH TREE IDENTIFICATION

Across the U.S., ash trees (*fraxinus spp.*) are under attack by the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive insect that attacks and kills all native species of ash trees. The information below will help you properly identify ash trees.



Ash trees have an opposite branching pattern, meaning that branches are directly across from each other.



Ash seeds are paddle shaped and occur in clusters. Seeds will typically remain on trees until late fall or early winter.



Ash leaves are compound and typically consist of 5-11 leaflets. The edges of the leaflets may be smooth or toothed.



On mature ash trees, the bark has a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges. Younger ash trees have smoother bark.

Background photo: Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service, Bugwood.org. Ash photos: Nebraska Forest Service.

Emerald Ash Borer Damage

The larvae the beetle produces is deadly to ash trees. The larvae inhabits underneath the bark of ash trees, where it feeds on the tree's water and nutrient supply. Consequently, the trees begin to die from

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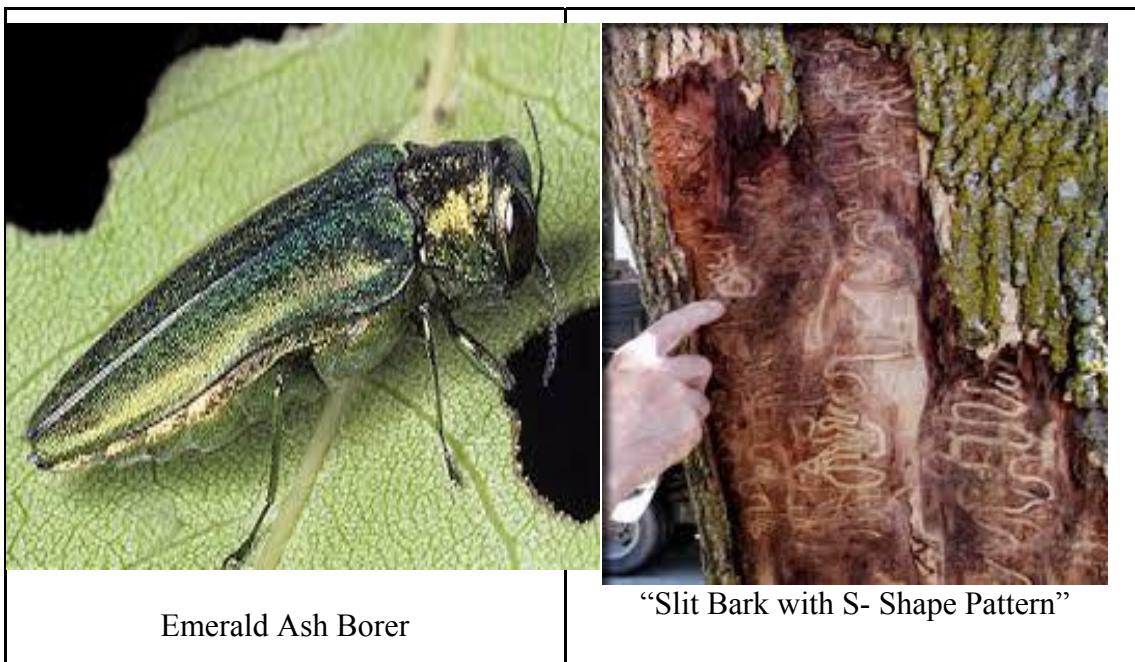
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the top of the leaves downwards and more often than not the trees die within three years. The emerald ash borer's only natural enemy in America is the woodpecker. During the colder months while the larvae is developing into an adult beetle, woodpeckers are attacking larvae from the outside, resulting in flaking bark and numerous holes along the tree. Meanwhile, the larva is inside the tree eating away at nutrient supply leaving behind an art-like S shape pattern under the bark. This two pronged attack proves deadly to ash trees.

Signs of infection to look for include:

- ❖ Dead leaves at the top of the tree
- ❖ Sprouts growing from the roots and trunk
- ❖ Split bark with an “S”-shaped pattern
- ❖ Unusual woodpecker activity



How will EAB Affect our community?

In addition to providing oxygen, shade, increased property value and beauty to Plainfield residences and properties, ash trees also provide wood that is used to make furniture, hardwood floors, baseball bats, tool handles, electric guitars, hockey sticks, and many other useful materials. The way EAB affects ash trees will result in unfortunate outcomes for many businesses, the ecosystem, and communities. According to an article on www.nature.org there would be an estimated loss of between \$20 - 60 billion dollars if the nation were to lose all ash trees due to this invasive species.



In addition, many controversies arise regarding a city's approach on the treatment of ash trees. Davenport, Iowa for example has activated its "Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan" which proposes to remove all city owned ash trees. They are not preserving any public ash trees; property owners would have to apply for permits to treat any tree(s) they wish to preserve. This would allow the city to keep track of what trees are receiving treatments, with what chemical, who did the treatment, and when it was treated. With this in mind, this little bug can be a considerable expense if the infestation continues to spread throughout New Jersey.

Precautions

At this time there is no proven solution to stop the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer. These beetles are reported to fly only a half of mile from where they emerge. Unknown to the seller and buyer of the firewood, the EAB piggybacks on firewood being transported hundreds of miles away, spreading the infection to new communities. The Department of Agriculture requests homeowners to be cautious about moving firewood. Ash logs infested by larvae can spread the EAB to uninfested areas. Since ash trees are very common on residential and commercial properties, recognizing unhealthy ash trees and reporting your findings is very beneficial to your state agencies.

Reporting

If you suspect Emerald Ash Borer on your property, or think you may have spotted it somewhere else, here's what you should do:
Check out the Emerald Ash Borer identification site to verify the damage, and then contact New Jersey Department of Agriculture at 1-609-406-6939. If you have any shade tree related questions, you can also always contact the Planning Division, which serves as the liaison to the City Shade Tree Commission, at 908-753-3421.

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