



Emerald Ash Borer – Facts and Recommendations

You may or may not have heard of a little green beetle that is wreaking havoc on ash trees. This insect is likely to attack both healthy and stressed ash trees and kill them over a period of 4-7 years, depending of the level of infestation. And you know what? Nebraska has a lot of ash trees – 54 million to be exact.

Facts:

1. Emerald Ash Borer has NOT been found in Nebraska. The closest it has been identified is in Kansas City. **The Nebraska Forest Service recommends chemical treatments on ash trees ONLY when the insect has been detected within 15 miles of your ash trees.**
2. Emerald Ash Borer will only attack ash trees. The majority of Nebraska ash trees are green ash and white ash. Mountain ash and wafer ash are two common trees in Nebraska, but aren't true ash, so are safe from the Emerald Ash Borer. Emerald Ash Borer is different, though, in that it will attack both healthy and stressed trees.
3. Emerald Ash Borer is NOT the only wood-boring insect found in Nebraska. There are many native borers, and even some that will attack ash – namely the lilac borer. Emerald Ash Borer is native to Asia, and has known to be in the U.S. since first finding it in Michigan in 2002. It is believed to have entered the country on wooden shipping packaging.
4. Emerald Ash Borer can travel via firewood, shipping, etc. Never, ever move firewood – buy it where you burn it. The adult beetle can also fly about a 6 miles from where it emerges.
5. There are chemical treatments available that have shown to be effective on Emerald Ash Borer. It is highly recommended that chemical applications are done by a certified arborist. If treatments are done, they will need to be done every 2-3 years for the remaining life of the tree.

Recommendations:

1. Assess your property. Do you have ash trees? Are they healthy? If you are unsure if a tree you have is actually an ash, call me at the Dodge County Extension office at 727.2775, and I can help you correctly identify it.
2. If you have an ash tree that is healthy, of considerable size, and of importance in your landscape, it will have to be chemically treated once Emerald Ash Borer is found within 15 miles of it. Otherwise, it will become vulnerable to attack by the borer, and once it attacks, will eventually kill the tree.
3. If you have an ash tree that doesn't seem to be healthy, or thriving, or is quite small, then maybe you won't want to put the money and effort into saving it. This is where a proper assessment of the tree really comes into play.

Below are some websites for more information. If you have any questions, please call the office!

Finding an Arborist – nearborists.org, select 'find an arborist'. Or isa-arbor.com and select 'Find a Tree Care Service'

Emerald Ash Borer Information – emeraldashborer.info

Emerald Ash Borer Identification - <http://nfs.unl.edu/documents/EAB/EABLookAlikesChart.jpg>

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