

A Bug's Life

Emerald ash borer

Agrilus planipennis

Fun facts

- Invasive species from Asia
- Found in NE in 2016 and spreading west (Kearney in 6/2020)
- Destroyed tens of millions of ash species in over 25 states
- Spread by infested firewood
- Destruction of ash trees will have economic and ecological impacts
- All ash trees are at risk, regardless of health, age or size

Identification

Damage: 1/8", D-shaped exit holes, serpentine galleries under bark, thinning of canopy, branch dieback, sprouting from trunk, wood pecker damage, tree death

Larva: Cream colored, flattened, 10 bell-shaped segments

Beetle: 1/2" long, slender, bright, metallic green, under wing covers has bright coppery-red body

Management

- Evaluate health and value of ash tree
- Consider treatment only if tree is within 15 miles of known infestation
- Homeowners may treat small trees
- Contact certified arborist for treatment of large trees (via trunk injection, foil application or foliage spray)
- Treatments are usually made annually or biannually for the life of the tree
- For safety, remove dead or dying trees



Photos: J. Green