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Emerald ash borer (EAB)



Photos by: Howard Russell, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive forest insect from Asia responsible for the deaths of millions of ash trees throughout the eastern half of the U. S. and southeastern Canada. EAB infests and kills weak and healthy ash trees alike, and all species of ash native to North America are vulnerable to EAB attack. With nearly 1 billion ash trees in the state, the spread of EAB will have a serious impact in Minnesota. And although frigid winter temperatures in northern Minnesota may help to slow the spread and survival of EAB, cold won't stop it completely.

Life cycle

EAB is a beetle whose larvae feed on ash trees and at least one [other species](#) related to ash. Most of the [EAB life cycle](#) takes place below the bark. Woodpeckers readily feed on EAB larvae and often reveal infested trees during the winter months. These trees become covered in light-colored "flecking" as woodpeckers remove the outer bark.