

City of Ottawa Information - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

About the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Ottawa in 2008 within the St. Laurent Boulevard and Highway 417 area.



Emerald ash borer larva grow to between 26 to 32 mm in length. The adult beetle measures 8.5 and 13mm

Emerald ash borer is a non-native, highly destructive wood-boring beetle that feeds under the bark of ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*). All species of ash are susceptible to attack, except mountain ash (*Sorbus spp.*), which is not an ash species. EAB has killed millions of ash trees in Ontario and many parts of the United States. It poses a major economic and environmental threat to urban and forested areas across Canada and the U.S.

EAB was first noticed in North America in June 2002 in Michigan. It has since crossed the border into Canada, affecting many cities in southwestern Ontario. Since that time the beetle has been found in many municipalities in Ontario. Most of these new findings are linked to human-assisted movement of EAB. Since the insect spends most of its lifecycle under the bark of trees, it can be easily moved with firewood or other tree materials such as nursery stock, logs, brush and larger wood chips.

What EAB does

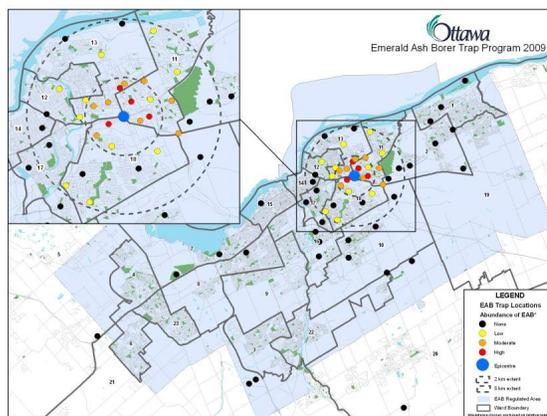
Emerald ash borers normally have a one-year life cycle but some can take up to two years to mature. EAB lays its eggs on tree bark and in bark crevices starting in late May.

In its larva form, which resembles a caterpillar, emerald ash borer feeds in an S-shaped pattern just under the bark of ash trees. This feeding disrupts the tree's transportation of water and nutrients. The presence of even a few insects in one tree can completely cut off a tree's transport system, effectively killing it.

Top branches of ash trees usually die off first. In fact, trees can lose half its branches in a single year. Once larvae finish feeding under the bark, they mature into adult beetles that chew their way out of the tree through D-shaped exit holes. Infested ash trees in North America generally die after two to three years, but heavily infested trees have been observed to die after one year of beetle attack.

Researchers indicate that the Emerald Ash Borer cannot be eradicated from North America.

Where is it?





EAB trap program tree inspections

What is the city doing about it?

- Goal: Slow the spread, manage our forest cover
- Tree planting
- Tree injection (TreeAzin)
- Tree removal
- Wood management and utilization
- Communication



Tree injection



Tree removal



Wood management & utilization

Slowing the Spread of the EAB

- Do not move firewood out of Ottawa or into communities adjacent to Ottawa
- Do not bring firewood to your cottage or campsite
- If you suspect infestation, consider contacting a forestry professional for an examination
- If your ash tree is cut down, dispose of it properly at the Trail Road Landfill

Tree Removal Program:

The City of Ottawa's Forestry Services staff began removing trees infested with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) on February 3rd as part of its ongoing EAB management strategy. Approximately 700 trees will be removed from 23 City properties over a six-week period. The week before trees are removed from a particular street, neighbouring residents will receive a notification letter explaining the work to be performed and Forestry Services' next steps. No trees will be removed from private properties.

To see which properties are affected, click on the following link:

http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/healthy_lawns/forestry/eab/ash_removal_en.html

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has taken action to limit the spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) by issuing a ministerial order to prohibit movement of firewood, and ash-tree products such as nursery stock, logs, branches and wood chips from areas of Ottawa and Gatineau to any other surrounding regions.

More information:

City of Ottawa: www.Ottawa.ca/eab

Ministry of Natural Resources Ontario:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_166994.html

Canadian Food Inspection Agency:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/agrpla/agrplae.shtml>