

Emerald Ash Borer FAQ



What is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

EAB is an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees by disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. All species of ash are susceptible. Because EAB is hard to detect, it can be present for years before an infestation is confirmed.

How many ash trees are in Minneapolis?

Of the 910,000 trees in Minneapolis, there are 210,000 ash trees on both private and public properties. Nineteen percent (38,000) of all boulevard trees are ash. The number of ash trees in MPRB parks has yet to be inventoried.

Has EAB been found in Minneapolis?

Yes, it was found in February 2010. The infestation was found in St. Paul in May 2009. As a result, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has placed a state quarantine, which prohibits the movement of the following items out of Ramsey and Hennepin counties:

- Firewood from hardwood (non-coniferous) species;
- Entire ash trees, limbs and branches;
- Ash logs or untreated ash lumber with bark attached; and
- Uncomposted ash chips and uncomposted ash bark chips larger than 2 inches in diameter.

What are signs of EAB?

- Sprouts grow from roots and trunk.
- Leaves are often larger than normal.
- Begins in top one-third of canopy.
- Progresses until the tree is bare.
- Several woodpecker species feed on EAB, peck outer bark creating large holes when extracting insects.

What is the MPRB doing to prevent the spread or deal with it once it is found?

- The MPRB has 10 tree inspectors who routinely inspect park and boulevard trees. They are being vigilant in looking for EAB as well.
- The MPRB are working in collaboration with the University of Minnesota, the St Paul Forestry Department and MDA in monitoring the EAB spread, detection and developing an action plan.
- Inventorying ash trees, which will be used as a pest management tool.
- As EAB's destructive nature was realized, MPRB stopped planting ash trees, and is replacing them with other species when ash trees are removed due to attrition. No ash trees have been planted by the MPRB since 2007.
- Staff training through educational opportunities and International Society of Arboriculture's Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Worker programs.

What can be done to eradicate EAB?

Research is ongoing to find a "cure." Studies have been done with injections, much like injections for Dutch Elm Disease, but the effectiveness has not been determined.

Who do I call if I suspect a tree has been infected with EAB?

- Trees on Private Property: Visit www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab and use the "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" checklist, e-mail Arrest.The.Pest@state.mn.us or call the EAB Hotlines: 651-201-6684 (Metro Area), 1-888-545-6684 (Greater Minnesota)
- Trees on Minneapolis Parks or Boulevards: Call MPRB Forestry at 612-313-7710 or e-mail forestry@minneapolisparcs.org.

What can I do now?

There are several effective steps the public can take to help prevent EAB from spreading:

- Don't transport firewood, even within Minnesota. Don't bring firewood along on a camping trip. Buy the wood you need locally from an approved vendor. Don't bring extra wood home with you.
- Don't buy or move firewood from outside Minnesota. If someone comes to your door selling firewood, ask them about the source of the wood. If it came from outside Minnesota, don't buy it.
- Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees.

More information

EAB Prevention, Early Detection & Rapid Response – <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.htm>

MPRB EAB Emergency Preparedness Plan – http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/caring/emerald_ash_plan.pdf