

Frequently Questions/Answers on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Mechanicsville, Iowa

1. **What is the emerald ash borer?** It is a very small, shiny green beetle (½ inch long x ⅛ inch wide; about the size of Mr. Lincoln's image on a penny).
2. **What does EAB eat?** Hosts are species (and cultivars) of ash in the genus *Fraxinus*. Hosts include green ash (e.g., 'Marshall Seedless', 'Patmore', and 'Summit'), white ash (e.g., Autumn Purple®), black ash, blue ash, and pumpkin ash. Manchurian and Chinese ash trees are primary hosts in its homeland [Eurasia]. Mountain ashes (*Sorbus* species) are NOT hosts.
3. **Where is EAB from?** This beetle is native to Asia and is found in China and Korea. It also has been reported in Japan, Mongolia, the Russian Far East, and Taiwan. EAB arrived in the United States sometime before 2002 in wood packing materials.
4. **How did it get to Mechanicsville, Iowa?** Most EAB infestations in the United States have been started by people unknowingly moving infested firewood, nursery plants, or sawmill logs. The adult beetle also can fly short distances (2 to 5 miles).
5. **Should I be concerned about EAB?** Yes. It kills ash trees, usually in 2-4 years. In the Midwest, millions of ash trees have been killed by EAB since 2002. It is unknown how many public and residential ash trees are located in Mechanicsville.
6. **How do I know if I have an ash tree in my yard?** Check on tree identification at: <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=1482> and http://www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/iowa_trees/tree_id.html
7. **How do I know if my tree is infested?** Look for the following symptoms:
 - a. Thinning or dying branches in the top of the tree
 - b. Water sprouts (suckers) halfway up the trunk
 - c. Feeding notches on edge of leaflets
 - d. Woodpecker feeding sites/many bark flakes on lawn
 - e. S-shaped feeding galleries under bark
 - f. D-shaped exit holes (1/8 inch diameter)
8. **Who can help me determine if my tree is infested?** Local authorities you can contact if you suspect EAB in your tree:
 - a. Iowa DNR Forester 319-462-2768
 - b. Cedar County Extension Office 563-886-6157
9. **Who should be thinking about treating ash trees?** If you are a homeowner within 15 miles of Mechanicsville you can evaluate the health of your tree, and if it is healthy you can consider treatment next year. If you are not in a known infested area, we do not recommend treatment at this time.
10. **Ash borer management options** www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM2084.pdf
 - a. Ash trees can be protected with insecticide applied by a commercial pesticide applicator or the homeowner. Trees must be healthy, vigorously growing, and valuable to your landscape.
 - b. Most of the treatments must be done each year for the life of the tree. Treatment may ***not*** be effective due to past injuries to the tree, soil moisture, soil compaction, and other site and environmental factors.
 - c. Preventive treatments are most effective. Infested trees with less than 40% dieback of the crown ***might be*** saved.

- d. Preventive treatments for EAB are NOT recommended until a confirmed EAB site is 15 miles away. Treatment outside this risk zone is not prudent.
 - e. Systemic insecticides require time and active tree growth for distribution in the ash tree. **Most products must be applied in early spring to be effective.** An additional fall treatment may be required for larger trees.
 - f. Canopy sprays are NOT recommended by ISU Extension and Outreach because of limited effectiveness, the need for specialized equipment, spray drift, and possible adverse effects to nontarget organisms.
11. **If I am contacted by a pesticide applicator to treat ash trees for EAB at this time, what course should I take?** Mid- to late summer is TOO LATE to apply a treatment. Next spring (mid-April to mid-May), IF you live within 15 miles of a confirmed EAB infested site, get an estimate for the treatment. Try to obtain at least one additional estimate before any work is done. IF you live outside the risk zone, thank the applicator for showing interest and keep the company information on file.
 12. **Where else has EAB been found in Iowa?** Four counties have been identified as having EAB infestations:
 - a. Allamakee – The northeast Iowa infestations have been found in New Albin and Lansing, IA, as well as at Black Hawk Point and Plough Slough wildlife areas.
 - b. Des Moines – One urban tree in Burlington was initially identified as EAB infested on July 10, 2013.
 - c. Jefferson – One urban tree in Fairfield was initially identified as EAB infested on July 24, 2013.
 - d. Cedar – Multiple trees identified on September 26, 2013.
 13. **Now that EAB has come to Iowa, is there some plan to manage/contain this pest?** Yes, a detailed plan has been developed by collaborative agencies. This plan provides the stepwise actions to be taken to contain the pest, and the agencies responsible for the various anticipated actions. The EAB Response Plan and other current Iowa information about EAB are given at: www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html
 14. **What does the EAB quarantine mean?** A quarantine by state and U.S. agriculture departments means that hardwood firewood, ash logs, and wood chips cannot be moved out of the area without a permit. Homeowners must not remove their ash tree or firewood from their tree to an area outside the quarantine. Tree removal companies must not haul logs or firewood outside the quarantine area unless inspected and treated as required by the regulations. For more information on how a quarantine will impact your business, contact USDA at 515-251-4083 if moving wood products outside of Iowa, and IDALS at 515-725-1470 if moving wood products within Iowa.
 15. **What should a homeowner or tree care company do with ash trees cut down in or near the infested area?** At this time the preferred disposal method is to use the wood within the quarantined area. Plans are being developed for residents to dispose of wood waste (twigs, brush, limbs, and branches).
 16. **What general recommendations are available to communities?** The Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Bureau has worked with several communities to deal with EAB infestations. Contact Tivon Feeley (515-281-4915) or Emma Hanigan (515-281-5600) for more information.
 17. **Where can I find current information about EAB on the Internet?** Sites to gather current information about this exotic pest include:
 - a. National site: www.emeraldashborer.info
 - b. ISU Extension and Outreach: www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html
 - c. IDALS: www.IowaTreePests.com
 - d. IDNR: www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/Forestry/ForestHealth/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx