



New Jersey Department of Agriculture officials reported the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, is active in 14 towns in six counties.

“Just as emerald ash borer has swiftly spread through other states in the nation, it has now moved to New Jersey and we must prepare for the impact of this highly destructive invasive pest, which could lead to the death of ash trees,” said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher.

Emerald ash borer was first discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 by a private citizen in Bridgewater. EAB is now present in 25 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. It was first discovered in Michigan in 2002 and has since killed tens of millions of trees.

The adult emerald ash borer is a metallic green insect about one-half inch long and one-eighth inch wide making it hard to detect in the wild. The female beetles lay eggs on the bark of ash trees. The eggs hatch and the larvae bore into the bark to the fluid-conducting vessels underneath. The larvae feed and develop, cutting off the flow of nutrients and, eventually killing the tree. EAB attacks and kills North American species of true ash, and tree death occurs three to five years following initial infestation. EAB is native to Asia.

The New Jersey Emerald Ash Borer Task Force has developed a New Jersey Emerald Ash Borer website, which has many resources including signs of the beetle, how to identify ash trees, how to report a possible infestation, and what to do with dead or removed trees.. For homeowners, there is a risk map and treatment options. .

New Jersey is part of a federal quarantine to prevent the spread of the beetle, which prohibits movement of ash trees outside of the quarantine zone. The Department also recommends not moving firewood. Firewood is a vehicle for movement of tree-killing forest pests including EAB. Use locally-sourced firewood when burning it at home and when travelling, burn firewood where you buy it. Make sure to burn all wood purchased. Residents are encouraged to visit the New Jersey Emerald Ash Borer website www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov where they can find resources on how to protect their ash trees or what to do with dead or dying trees.

Report signs of the beetle to the Department of Agriculture at 609-406-6939.

Ash Tree I.D.

Fraxinus species
true ash

- Opposite branching
- Compound leaf
- Paddle-shaped seed (female trees only)
- Diamond shaped bark



1. Leaves are compound and composed of 5 to 11 leaflets.



2. Seeds on female trees are paddle shaped.



3. Branches and buds are in pairs directly across from each other (opposite branching).



4. White bark has characteristic ridges.

