

## Emerald Ash Borer

*Agrilus planipennis*

### Statement of the Problem

An exotic insect associated with the decline and death of thousands of ash trees has been found in the Detroit metropolitan area. The proposed common name for the insect is the Emerald Ash Borer. The insect has been identified as *Agrilus planipennis*.

Forest Health specialists from Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan State University, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the USDA Forest Service are working together to develop the appropriate management actions.

### Identifying Affected Trees

Infested trees exhibit top-down canopy die-back typical of other phloem borers such as two-lined chestnut borer or bronze birch borer. **Approximately one-third to one-half of a tree's branches may die in one year. Most of the canopy is dead within two years.** The tree dies once the bole of the tree is girdled by the tunnelling larvae.

The beetle appears to affect ash trees larger than 2 inches in diameter. The affected trees may have vertical splits in the bark 2-4 inches long and often display epicormic branching from the trunk or roots. The beetle creates a D-shaped exit hole in the bark, roughly 1/16" wide that can be detected upon close inspection.

**A complicating factor in identifying trees infested by the beetle can be the presence of ash yellows and/or ash decline.** Trees affected by ash yellows and decline show similar symptoms as trees affected by the beetle. Confirming the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer requires finding the actual insect or the characteristic exit holes and larval galleries.

*Coming Soon... a new Pest Alert on Emerald Ash Borer will be available on our website at: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/>*



David Cappaert, MSU

### Description of the Beetle

The adult beetle is dark metallic green in color, 3/4 inches in length and 1/16 inches wide. The beetle appears to have a one-year life cycle. Adults begin emerging in late May with peak emergence in mid-June. The larval stage of the beetle kills the tree by tunnelling through the phloem and girdling branches and the stem.

### Extent of Infestation

**This is the first report of Emerald Ash Borer in the United States.** At this time, Emerald Ash Borer has been found in the Detroit counties of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne. It is likely that the beetle has been in the Detroit area for five or more years. The beetle may spread through the movement of infested trees or in logs and firewood.

### What is Being Done?

The first priority will be to determine the details and boundaries of the quarantine area. This week the cooperating agencies are releasing information to the news media as well as other organizations and cooperators. In addition, they are searching for scientific literature and expertise regarding the biology, impacts and management strategies for this exotic beetle.

### We Need Your Help!

**It is important to circulate information regarding the Emerald Ash Borer to foresters, city foresters, arborists, and other individuals who work with trees and particularly with ash species.** Any ash that appear to have Emerald Ash Borer symptoms should be reported to your State Department of Agriculture or USDA APHIS. The USDA Forest Service Forest Health Staff would also appreciate notification of any new occurrences.



USDA Forest Service  
**Northeastern Area**  
 State and Private Forestry

#### For more information, contact:

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