

Emerald Ash Borer and Firewood Quarantine

Be on the look out!



The adult emerald ash borer is metallic green in color and exhibits purple abdominal segments beneath its wing covers. It is relatively small at about one half inch in length.

The larva are about an inch in length.



Please don't move firewood !

Moving firewood outside of the quarantine area could not only prove devastating to our forests but it is also illegal. Violators will face criminal charges and fines of \$300 per violation as well as possible imprisonment. Civil penalties of up to \$20,000 per violation may also be assessed.

Revised 9/11

What is the emerald ash borer?

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that has the ability to kill 99 percent of its host trees. It is a native to Asia where it has natural enemies that help keep its population in check. It was first detected in Detroit, Michigan in 2002 and has since spread to 15 states, including Pennsylvania, through the transport of infested ash firewood, logs, and nursery stock. It was first found in Pennsylvania in 2007 in Butler County.

It kills ash trees within 3 to 5 years of infestation and has the potential to wipe out all 300 million of Pennsylvania's ash trees unless some method of control can be found.

How it gets around

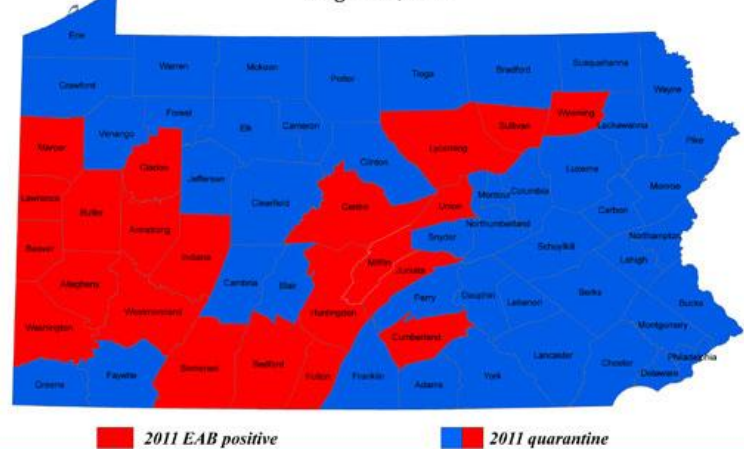
Natural rates of spread for the ash borer are relatively slow at ½ to 2 miles per year but it is easily moved long distances to new areas whenever infested material is moved.

To slow the spread of EAB, a statewide quarantine has been established by the Department of Agriculture. The quarantine makes it illegal to move out of the state all hardwood firewood, ash trees of any size, ash saw logs, limbs, branches, stumps, or roots. Due to other quarantines, no wood can be removed at all from Bucks County.

EAB is currently quarantined throughout the Commonwealth and has been confirmed in at least 22 counties.

Emerald Ash Borer Distribution and Quarantine Map in Pennsylvania

August 01, 2011



What to look for

New infestations are often difficult to detect, as damage to individual ash trees may not be apparent for up to three years. Symptoms of an infestation can include the death of branches in the upper crown, excessive rapid branching on the tree trunk and vertical bark splits. Wood pecker damage can also sometimes be a sign.

Take time to check on the ash trees in your area and look for the “D” shaped exit holes as well as any sign of unexplained die back or decline in the trees.



The emerald ash borer attacks all species of ash found in Pennsylvania. The white ash is the most common but it also targets green, black, and pumpkin ash trees.



Vertical bark splits like those pictured above can be a sign that the tree is infested.

What you can do

The single most important thing you can do is not transport firewood out of the quarantined area or areas of known infestation.

Since many species of wood-boring insects, including EAB, can be spread by transporting infested firewood and logs, campers and homeowners are encouraged to use only locally harvested firewood, burn all of the firewood on site, and not carry it to new locations.



To ensure that no ash leaves the state mixed with other wood, the firewood quarantine includes not only ash but oak, maple, birch and all other species of hardwood.

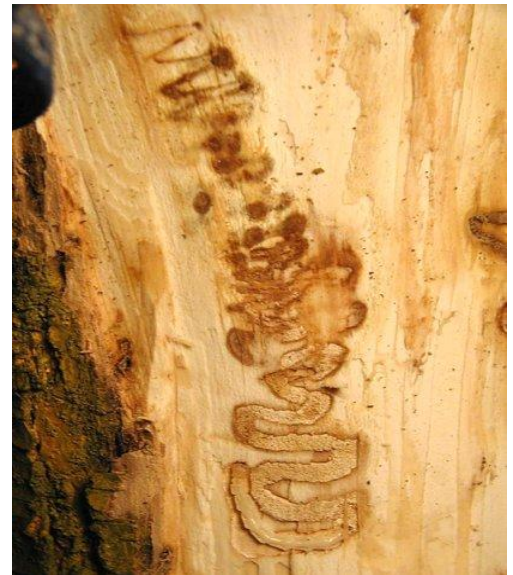
Firewood permits issued for state forest land within the quarantine area are issued with the condition that hardwood firewood may not be removed from the quarantine area.

What to do with your ash trees

Be vigilant. If you see a decline in your ash trees, consider harvesting them. Contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for the latest guidance and to learn about your options.



The “D” shaped exit holes of the beetle can be a clue that a tree is infested.



The presence of these “S” shaped galleries beneath the bark are also characteristic signs of an infested ash tree.

More Information

For more information on emerald ash borer visit:
www.paemeraldashborer.psu.edu/

Report your sighting by email at: Badbug@pa.gov