



Emerald Ash Borer

The recent discovery of ash borers has generated many calls to the City of Northfield. This exotic beetle has the potential of infecting all the ash trees in Northfield. Although a comprehensive tree inventory has not been done in years, TJ Heinrich, Streets and Parks Supervisor/Forester, estimates that ash is one of the city's dominant trees, possibly 20% of the total tree population.

Is My Tree An Ash Tree?

Branches and buds are directly across from each other and not staggered.

Leaves are compound and composed of 5-11 leaflets.

Bark on mature trees is tight with diamond-shaped ridges, young tree bark is relatively smooth

For more information on Ash Tree Characteristics

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/news/publications/ext/ashtreeid.pdf>

What Does an Emerald Ash Borer Look Like

EAB is a slender, elongated insect about 1/3 - 1/2 inch long.

It is widest just behind the head, gradually tapering back to the abdomen.

It is a bright iridescent green to copper-green color, often with a copper colored area behind the head.

It's body underneath the wings is a purplish-magenta color.

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer characteristics

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/M1242.html>

What Are The Signs of Damage From the EAB

Trees typically are killed in two to four years.

When trees are first attacked by EABs, the symptoms are inconspicuous and hard to notice.

By the end of the second year, thinning foliage and dieback in the crown begins to be apparent.

By the third year, there is severe dieback and little foliage.

When the adults emerge, they create small, 1/8 inch D-shaped exit holes that are characteristic of this insect, although they can be hard to see.

If you were to remove the bark on the trunk of a tree showing these symptoms, you should also find the larval galleries.

Woodpecker attacks on ash could also indicate the presence of emerald ash borers.

Vertical splits in the bark due to callous tissue forming over old galleries may also be seen.

For further information <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/index.html>

What Should You Do If You Suspect EAB

If you suspect the presence of Emerald Ash Borer, call the City of Northfield, Streets and Parks Division at 507-645-3050 and talk to the Streets and Parks Supervisor/Forester, TJ Heinrich.