

Emerald Ash Borer Common Questions and Answers

- **What is EAB?**

EAB is an acronym for Emerald Ash Borer, a small green insect that attacks and kills ash trees. The adults live on the outside of ash trees feeding on the leaves during the summer months. The larvae look similar to white grubs and feed on the living plant tissues (phloem and cambium) underneath the bark of ash trees. The trees are killed by the tunneling activity of the larvae under the tree's bark, which disrupts the vascular flow.

- **Where is EAB?**

EAB is native to eastern Asia but has been found in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Virginia, and Ontario Canada. No one knows exactly when it was introduced to the United States, however many scientist feel that EAB may have been introduced as early 1990. After its introduction, EAB has spread by natural flight, in ash firewood, nursery stock, and possibly other ash materials.

- **Why should I care about EAB?**

All ash trees are susceptible to EAB damage and millions of ash trees have already been killed in infested areas. Much of Iowa's forestland is densely populated with ash trees, and Iowa's community street trees are heavily planted with ash cultivars (15-60% depending on the community). Early inventory data indicates that there are 50 million rural ash trees and 20 million urban ash trees. The cost of removing and replacing a single tree can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars. Take a moment to think about how many ash trees are in your yard, neighborhood, community, and woodlands. Then imagine those areas without ash trees.

- **When will EAB reach Iowa?**

No one knows. EAB has **not** yet been found in Iowa but most experts believe that it will inevitably be here. In other states, EAB has been present for a number of years before building to detectable levels.

- **Should I start treating my ash trees for EAB?**

No, at this time no treatments are advised for EAB in Iowa. There are a number of chemical that are labeled for use against EAB. However, there is no need to treat any tree without the presence of EAB in our state, and without a full understanding about how treatments work.

- **How do treatments work?**

The most common method is using the chemical "imidacloprid", which is sold under a variety of trade names. The chemical is poured (soil drench method) around the base of the tree and is applied in early March to allow the tree to uptake the chemical. Trees larger than six inches in diameter need to be treated several times a year. The chemical cost is approximately \$10 per inch of the tree's diameter. For the treatment to be effective, it must be taken up through the root system before May and applied every year.

- **How effective is the treatment?**

The insecticides have been marginally successful at best. The most successive control has been on trees that are 6 inches in diameter or less. The treatments have very limited success on trees that are 13 inches in diameter and greater. Because of the expense of yearly treatments, and the marginal success rate, it is important to weigh the decision to treat carefully **if** the emerald ash borer were identified in Iowa.

- **Will the treatment protect my tree from being removed if there were a Federal or State quarantine?**

No!

- **Where can I find out more information on EAB?**

www.emeraldashborer.info

- **Who should I contact if I think I have found EAB in my trees?**

Report and suspicious tree to the State Entomologist's Office at 515-725-1470 or to APHIS-PPQ at 515-285-

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