

Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long-Horned Beetle

The introduction of invasive insects have destroyed hundreds of millions of trees in North America, costing taxpayers millions and millions of dollars to remove dead or damaged trees from homes and communities, endangering our Northeast forests.

Trees that are damaged or killed by these insects can also substantially contribute to power outages and increase costs as those dead or dying trees fall onto nearby overhead utility lines necessitating repairs. These insects are of particular interest in our Upstate New York and New England service territories.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), which affects all species of ash trees and Asian Long-Horned Beetle (ALB), which affects over 12 types of trees, but primarily maples, have spread dramatically because of human transportation of infested firewood. A significant infestation of ALB found in 2009 in Worcester, Massachusetts resulted in over 30,000 maple trees in the community being removed to attempt the beetle's control. ALB continues to be a significant problem in the Worcester area, New York City, Long Island and New Jersey area. EAB is now found in most counties in New York State, 86 communities in Massachusetts, 8 counties in Connecticut and various counties in New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.



Important notice: Customers are urged to watch and report symptoms or infestation in trees.

States where infestations exist have expanded the EAB/ALB quarantine which restricts the movement of trees and wood products and may specify the means which infested wood must be disposed of or processed. Most importantly, only firewood that has been heat treated (Kiln Dried) to eliminate pests can be imported and moved throughout the states. Although the beetles can be naturally slow movers, they can get to other states and areas by wood that is carried by campers, loggers, tree companies or infected nursery stock. New York customers can obtain updated quarantine information at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/110194.html>, customers in Massachusetts can obtain current quarantine information by going to: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/emerald-ash-borer-in-massachusetts>

Look for and report these symptoms:



"D" shaped exit holes of EAB



Serpentine galleries of EAB



ALB exit holes

Emerald Ash Borer – small half-moon, 'D'-shaped exit holes (about 1/8" in diameter) on ash trees, tree death from the top down, "s"-shaped, serpentine larval galleries under the bark and usually a proliferation of sprouts on the lower stem. In some instances, small woodpeckers may leave jagged, shallow holes and flick off the outer layer of rough bark in their feeding search for the insect larvae. Green, white, black and blue ash (and/or horticultural varieties) are the trees infected and killed. If you think you have seen this insect, you may report your finds to the USDA EAB hotline at **(MA 866-322-4512) (NYS 866 640-0652)**.

Asian Long-Horned Beetle – 3/8" round exit holes on the trunk and branches, sawdust and sap on and around trees, round pits in the bark (egg niches) and oozing sap from egg niches in Summer, often on maple, horse chestnut, birch and willow trees. To help minimize the spread of these destructive insects, only purchase firewood that has been harvested locally or heat treated. If you are camping, purchase your firewood near your site; do not move wood from your property to your campgrounds or seasonal residences. If you think you have seen this insect, you may report your finds to the USDA ALB hotline at **866-702-9938**.

Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long-Horned Beetle *(continued)*

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Asian Long Horned Beetle



Asian Long Horned Beetle

► **Asian Long Horned Beetle:** Asian Long-Horned Beetle host trees most preferred are maple trees (sugar, Norway, red and silver), boxelder, Horse-chestnut, elms and all willow species. Adult exit holes are perfectly round, 3/8" diameter...almost as if the tree was drilled. Adult leaf-feeding damage can occur as the beetle tears away at the veins of the leaf, creating jagged holes rather than circular or oval holes left by other leaf feeding insects. Besides infested trees, look for adults that may become trapped in swimming pool filters.

Emerald Ash Borer



Emerald Ash Borer

► **The Emerald Ash Borer has four life stages:** adult, egg, larva and pupa. The adult beetle has a shiny emerald green body with a coppery red or purple abdomen. The beetle measures 1/2-inch-long and 1/8 inch wide. Emerald Ash Borers have killed over 50 million ash trees in the state of Michigan since being found in 2002. Adult Emerald Ash Borers emerge and are most notable in June and July, but can be seen from May to early September. The purple prism traps that may be hung in trees in your area do not control the insect, but are used to monitor for the insects' early presence.

For more information and to report infestations:

New York: Visit the NYS DEC website at: www.dec.ny.gov or call **1-866-640-0652**; email: foresthealth@dec.ny.gov

Massachusetts: Call the DCR Forest Health Program at **617-626-1251** or go to www.massnrc.org/pests/albreport.aspx – images may be sent directly to pestalert@massnrc.org

Rhode Island: Contact the DEM at **401-222-2781** or <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/ri/dem/demcaps>

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