



Emerald Ash Borer *In Milwaukee County, 2009*



Adult



Adult - wings open



Larvae - young to old



S-shaped tunnels



D-shaped holes



Woodpecker "flecking"

Since emerald ash borer was confirmed in the City of Franklin on August 27, 2009, homeowners throughout metropolitan Milwaukee should look for infected trees on their property. All area residents should inspect their trees, first making sure they are properly identified as ash trees. Then, they should look for the 8 signs and symptoms of emerald ash borer infestation shown on this factsheet. If you see two or more of these symptoms or have any other questions, you may contact the Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension at (414)-256-4600.

First, make certain your tree is an ash tree (see photos on back of this factsheet). Ashes have leaves composed of 5 – 11 leaflets which are toothed along the edges. The leaves and main branches are opposite each other. Bark on green and white ash is thick and has a netted diamond pattern. Black ash bark is thin, grayish and scaly. Trees often confused with ash include European mountain ash, black walnut, hickory and boxelder.

Next, look for any of these 8 signs and symptoms: 1) dieback in the upper and outer part of the tree canopy; 2) groups of branches sprouting from the base or along the trunk; 3) vertical splits in the trunk that may have tunnel patterns visible underneath; 4) strips of bark pulled off by woodpeckers on the upper parts of the trunk and branches; 5) D-shaped holes in the trunk 1/8 inch in diameter; 6) S-shaped, serpentine tunnels under the bark packed with sawdust; 7) cream-colored worm-like larvae that are flattened and have very tiny pincher-like appendages at the end; and 8) metallic green beetles that are 3/8 to 1/2 inch long and 1/16 inch wide with a flat back and rounded underneath.

UW-Extension specialists recommend treatment of ash trees that are within 15 miles of a known infestation, that are valuable, high quality specimens which have less than 40% dieback due to emerald ash borer. There are several insecticide products available for homeowners that are as effective as the products available from commercial services. Some are used as soil drenches or soil injections and others need to be inserted into holes drilled into the trunk of the tree. Soil drenching is the easiest, most effective method and is the least dangerous for the tree. Soil drenching involves mixing the pesticide with water in a watering can and applying it to the root zone of the tree. Follow label recommendations for rates and the area to cover.

The best quality product is *Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control* which has *imidacloprid* as the active ingredient. There are other products that contain this chemical which can also be used. For more details, download the UW-Extension Wisconsin Garden Facts sheet, *Homeowner Guide to EAB Insecticide Treatments* at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/GardenFacts.html>.

If the tree measures less than 16" around, the first treatment doesn't need to be made until mid-April – mid-May next year. For larger trees, of 16" around or more, the first treatment should be made in mid-fall this year with a second treatment in mid-April to mid-May next year and every year thereafter. A 32 oz. bottle retails for approximately \$14.95 and will treat a 10" circumference tree.

More information on emerald ash borer can be found at <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov>.

Signs and Symptoms (cont'd.)



Sprouting twigs at base and on trunk.



Dieback in upper and outer canopy.



Vertical splits with tunnels underneath.

Ash Tree Identification



An ash leaf has 5—11 leaflets.



Leaves, buds and branches are opposite each other.



Large brown buds with dots in a C or U shape in the leaf scar.



Green & white ash bark is in a netted diamond pattern.

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