Rock County
2006

Emerald Ash Borer Response

Local efforts to inform the public about a regional pest.

Determining EAB:

In 2006, the Rock Co. UW-Extension office received an overwhelming amount of phone calls from residents concerned about EAB.

Are you sure it is an ash tree?
- Is the leaf 5 to 9 leaflets (usually 7)
- Does it produce berries? (If yes, more than likely Mt. Ash, not a true ash, and is not susceptible to EAB; True ash do not produce berries)

Do you have a sample of the insect?
- Is it smaller than a penny?
- Is the insect metallic green?
- Do you see D-shaped holes the size of a bb on the trunk of the ash tree?

If not EAB, what is wrong with my tree?
- Drought stress (from previous years)
- Construction damage
- Verticillium wilt
- Anthracnose
- Ash yellows
- Native ash borers
- Leaf drop

Emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. Emerald ash borer is also established in Windsor, Ontario, was found in Ohio in 2003, and northern Indiana in 2004. Since its discovery, EAB has:

- Killed more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Most of the devastation is in southeastern Michigan.
- Caused regulatory agencies to enforce quarantines (Ohio, Indiana, Michigan) and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.
- Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

In the summer of 2006, EAB was found in Northern Illinois, within a one-hour drive from Rock County.

In response, the county horticulture educator teamed up with the UW-Extension turf grass and woody ornamental insect specialist in order to educate county residence and green industry professionals on the identification, biology, and management options relating to EAB.

- Green industry professional workshop (March 16 at Rotary Gardens) Addressed upcoming issues affecting green industry professionals, including EAB. 30 participants
- Informational meeting (July 13 at Beloit Public Library) Open meeting to address questions and concerns from area homeowners and businesses. 40 participants
- Press releases, ample coverage in the Janesville Gazette.
- Scouting program, summer 2006. MGV hired to scout Rock County area for infested trees. (USDA funded)

At the time of this writing, EAB has not been found in Rock County.