

Emerald ash borer

Agrilus planipennis fairmaire



Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native, wood-boring beetle that feeds on ash trees (*Fraxinus*). EAB was first detected in 2002 near Detroit and Windsor and has since spread to many states and provinces but has not yet been found in Alberta. EAB has resulted in the loss of millions of ash trees since arriving in North America. Adult EAB beetles are metallic green, about 8.5 to 14 mm long and 3 mm wide.

Impacts

EAB feeds on all ash trees, regardless of tree condition or age and inhibits the tree’s ability to transport water and nutrients. Newly infested areas can lose 99% of their ash trees within 8-10 years. EAB can spread naturally but is often spread by human movement of ash materials such as firewood. Early detection and management can slow the spread of EAB. You can help by looking out for the signs and symptoms of EAB and by burning firewood where you buy it.

How to detect an EAB infestation – Signs and symptoms

Look for the following damage on ash trees:

- D-shaped exit holes
- Winding or S-shaped galleries beneath the bark
- Crown thinning (top-down)
- Bark splitting
- Woodpecker damage (holes, peeled bark)
- Epicormic shoots

Native pests or EAB?

Western ash bark beetle (WABB) is a common pest of ash trees in Calgary. WABB infested trees may also be associated with woodpeckers and may show similar symptoms to EAB. WABB only attack weakened or unhealthy trees.

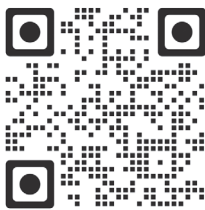
What does this mean for Calgary

Ash trees make up approximately 15 per cent of Calgary’s tree canopy. There are over 75,000 public ash trees and an estimated 180,000 private ash trees in Calgary.

Losing our ash trees would have negative consequences, such as reduced shade, cooling, wind shelter, air quality and biodiversity, along with increased soil erosion and flooding.

Prevent the spread of EAB

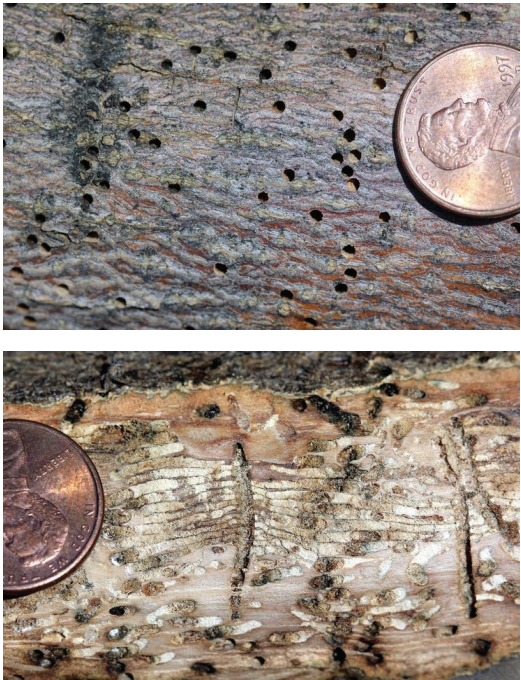
To prevent the spread of EAB, **don’t move firewood and always burn it where you buy it.** For more information, visit calgary.ca/EAB



Examples of emerald ash borer damage



Western ash bark beetle damage



WABB exit holes: small and round

WABB galleries: smaller, egg and larval galleries are perpendicular