



Allegheny Brambles

An informational article about the Allegheny National Forest

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Department of Agriculture

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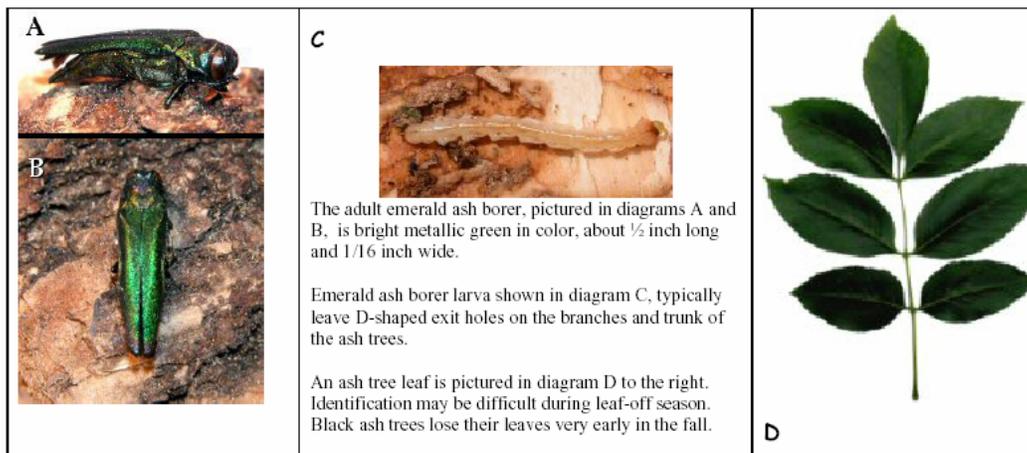
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERALD ASH BORER EARLY DETECTION ALERT

The Forest Service needs your help in the early detection of emerald ash borer on the Allegheny National Forest. We hope emerald ash borer (EAB) does not arrive here, but we ask that you be on the look out for early signs of this insect. Over three million ash trees in Pennsylvania are at risk. The EAB, whose larvae (young stage of insect) feed inside the bark of ash trees, has no natural enemies to control its reproduction and spread.

The EAB is an exotic pest, native to Asia and belongs to a group of insects known as metallic wood-boring beetles. Since its discovery in southeastern Michigan during 2002, the EAB has spread to Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Maryland, Ontario, and Canada, and was recently found in Butler County in southwestern Pennsylvania. People help this pest move by moving legs, firewood or nursery stock to new locations.

Ash trees are most easily identified by an opposite branching pattern (two branches come off the main stem, one on each side and opposite each other) and compound leaves with 5-11 leaflets attached to each stem.



How do I tell if an ash tree has been infested by emerald ash borer?

Common signs of infestation include D-shaped exit holes through the bark about one-eighth of an inch wide, S-shaped larval galleries just beneath the bark, thinning canopy, vertical splits in the bark, and unusual shoots sprouting from the main trunk or base of the tree. To see pictures of these symptoms, go to <http://ashalert.osu.edu/photosubgallery.asp?category=EAB%20SIGNS%20AND%20SYMPTOMS>.

What is the life cycle of emerald ash borer?

Emerald ash borer produces only one generation per year. Adults emerge from late May through early August, with emergence peaking in early July. They feed on foliage for one to two weeks prior to mating. Females produce about 50 to 100 eggs, which are laid individually on the bark surface or within bark cracks and crevices. As larvae hatch, they tunnel into the tree, where they feed through summer and into fall. The EAB over-winters in the outer bark or just under the inner bark within the outer inch of sapwood. Adults emerge in mid-late spring.

How do I distinguish emerald ash borer from native borers?

Emerald ash borer leaves a D-shaped exit hole that is very distinct. To learn how to distinguish between emerald ash borer and native borers, go to http://ashalert.osu.edu/native_borers.pdf.

How can I control emerald ash borer?

Research trials and experience have shown that different types of insecticides can protect trees from emerald ash borer. Research suggests that best control will be obtained when treatments are initiated in the earliest stages of infestation before visible symptoms are present, or perhaps even the year before trees are infested. It is also important to realize that treatments will have to be repeated each year. In some cases, it may be more cost-effective to remove and replace the tree. For details about insecticides and their effectiveness, go to http://ashalert.osu.edu/insecticide_24jan07.pdf.

If you suspect emerald ash borer please contact the PA hotline at 866-253-7189.

For more information on the emerald ash borer visit:

<http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab/>
www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegHENY
www.StopTheBeetle.Info

Thank you for your help in protecting the forests we love!