



# EMERALD ASH BORER

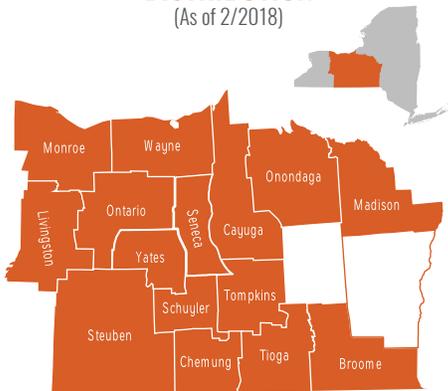
*Agrilus planipennis*  
Origin: Northern China, Korea

**INVASIVE RANKING, NYS**  
Very High

**MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**  
Chemical  
Prevention

## DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



[www.fingerlakesinvasives.org](http://www.fingerlakesinvasives.org)



Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a wood boring beetle that feeds on and eventually kills all species of ash. Adults are about 1 cm long, with an elongated metallic green body and narrow brass colored head. Larvae are creamy white with a brown head and are flattened on top and bottom. The larvae have eight abdominal segments, with the last segment sporting two pincer-like spines. Adults emerging from trees in the spring leave a D-shaped exit hole in the bark.

## HABITAT

Emerald ash borers can be found in, on, or around ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in hardwood forests.

## THREAT

Adult beetles feed on ash foliage, causing aesthetic damage. The larvae damage ash trees by feeding on the inner bark, which disrupts the transportation of water and nutrients, resulting in mortality. Destruction caused by the emerald ash borer is projected to cost \$10.7 billion by 2020 through urban tree removal, loss of ecosystem services and property value, and wholesale loss of ash plantations.

## MANAGEMENT

Ash trees can be treated with an insecticide to prevent infestation; treatments last for three years. Planning for removal of untreated trees in urban areas will prevent costly emergency removals. It is also important to prevent the spread of established populations. When recreating and camping, only local firewood should be used. Biocontrol with the use of parasitic wasps is currently being deployed in a few states. This is a long-term management method rather than immediate control.

**REFERENCE** - McCullough, Debra. 2015. Pest Alert: Emerald Ash Borer. United States Department of Agriculture. USDA. June 17, 2017. [https://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/eab/eab.pdf](https://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.pdf)

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