



# Forest Pest Outreach – Maine

Empowering Maine’s public to combat emerald ash borer





**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** is an invasive Asian beetle that threatens to kill nearly all of the ash trees in North America. In city and town environments, where ash is planted in the landscape, **the majority of the costs for managing infested ash trees will be borne by municipalities and property owners.**

**What is at stake?** Landscape trees increase property values, aid in storm water management, and provide energy savings for homes and businesses. EAB can devastate all the ash trees in the area in just 2-3 years, leaving previously shady tree-lined streets bare. Trees that have been killed by EAB are very dangerous, and can drop limbs or fall on people or property.

**Many homeowners find out about the magnitude of EAB’s damage only after their trees have started to die. By then, it is too late.**

**Proactive management** of community ash resources can save money, save trees, and preserve the aesthetics of neighborhoods.

**The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry** is able to help your community prepare for EAB’s arrival. Maine DACF will work with you to:

-  *Encourage action before the arrival of EAB*
-  *Raise awareness of location of ash trees through ash identification and tree tagging*
-  *Educate communities about EAB management options and where to get research-based information*
-  *Provide advice for contracting with tree-care professionals*

**Some ash trees can be saved from EAB.** Research has shown that certain insecticides can effectively protect trees. Not all trees can or should be treated, and not all insecticides will kill EAB. Only healthy, vigorously growing, high-value trees should be considered for treatment. Once the insect is within 15 miles of your trees, you should consider treatment. Early action is key to saving your ash trees.

**Don’t let EAB decide how your neighborhood looks. Get Planning! Visit [www.maine.gov/eab](http://www.maine.gov/eab)**

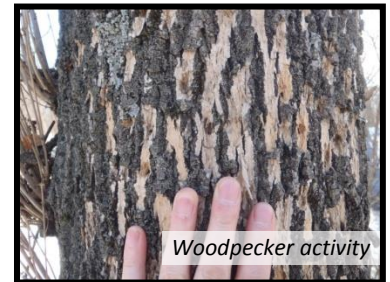
For more information about preparing your community for EAB, contact the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry at 1-800-367-0223



Crown dieback



Epicormic branching



Woodpecker activity



S-shaped tunnels

**Signs of EAB infestation.**

# EAB Readiness: A guide to action!

## Start planning for EAB Now!

### 1. Find out where ash trees are.

Create an ash inventory with your neighbors. Decide which ash trees are healthy, valuable, and potentially worth saving. Contact your city forester or tree warden and ask if there is an EAB management plan. Begin removing ash trees that are sick or planted in poor locations, such as under utility lines. Insecticide treatments should begin when EAB is found within 15 miles of your trees.

**Hold a tree tagging event in your community to show people which trees are at risk of death by EAB.**



### 2. Consider professional help.

A certified tree-care professional can help with deciding which trees are good treatment candidates. Some insecticide treatments, especially those larger trees, can only be applied by a professional. Maine licensed arborists and pesticide applicators can be found at [www.maine.gov/dacf/php/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/index.shtml).

**Teaming up with your neighbors can really pay off! Negotiating large contracts with tree-care companies to treat or remove many trees at once can often result in lower costs for everyone.**

### 3. Plant new trees now.

Give your new landscape a jump start by planting trees that EAB will not attack. Early planting gives young trees time to grow before all the ash are lost.

For more information about what you can do to plan and prepare for EAB's arrival in your community contact the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry at 1-800-367-0223.



## Can you ID an ash tree?

Ash trees are common in some Maine communities, as well as in the woods.

**Leaves** are compound (5-9 leaflets\*)



\* Black ash has up to 11 leaflets

**Seeds** are paddle shaped.



**Branches and buds** are opposite one another.



The **bark** pattern resembles a woven basket; it is broken into parallel ridges by deep furrows, and is dark brown or gray.