

# Emerald Ash Borer in Minneapolis

Review this flyer for important information on how emerald ash borer is affecting your tree

## Emerald ash borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive pest that kills ash trees. It has been found in Minneapolis and is likely in all cities in Hennepin County. It's likely that every ash tree in Minneapolis that hasn't been treated is infested. It can take a few years for an ash tree to show signs and/or symptoms of EAB infestation, so even if a tree looks healthy, it might still be infested.



**Trees with EAB become weak and can be dangerous for people and property**

## How to identify an ash tree

There are different types of ash trees in Minneapolis – green, white and black. Here's how you can identify an ash tree:



The branches grow directly opposite from each other



There are 5-9 oblong-shaped leaflets on each stalk



The bark has a diamond-shaped pattern



The seeds are paddle-shaped and hang in clusters

## What you can do

- Treat your tree: ash trees can be treated with pesticides, but once a tree is showing signs of EAB, it may be too late for the treatment to work well. Treating a tree with pesticides may be less expensive than removing it. Treatments need to be repeated every few years and do not guarantee the the survival of the tree. Contact an ISA-Certified Arborist to find out if your tree can be treated. Visit [minneapolismn.gov/tree-contractors](http://minneapolismn.gov/tree-contractors) for a list of certified arborists in Minneapolis.
- Remove the tree: if the tree is badly infested or the treatment isn't working, it will need to be removed.
- Replant a new tree: after removing the infested ash tree, you can replant a new tree.

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## Signs and symptoms of an emerald ash borer infestation

- Canopy dieback: leaves on the top or on one part of the tree start dying, eventually affecting the whole tree
- Shoots growing from base of tree: sprouts growing from the roots or base of tree show that it is stressed
- Increased woodpecker activity: woodpeckers peck at the tree to eat the EAB larvae under the bark
- Blonding of the tree bark: the bark looks lighter in patches or over most of the tree because woodpeckers strip it off to get to the larvae
- Cracks in the bark or chunks of bark falling off: larvae tunneling underneath the bark can cause it to split open and/or fall off
- Serpentine patterns underneath bark: larvae make squiggly patterns under the bark
- Small D-shaped exit holes: adult beetles leave very small D-shaped holes when they exit the tree.

These photos show some signs and symptoms of ash trees infested with EAB:



Visit [minneapolismn.gov/city-trees](https://minneapolismn.gov/city-trees) for information in other languages.

### Photo credits

U.S. Department of Agriculture (EAB on leaf), Hennepin County Master Gardeners (tree damage), U.S. Forest Service Region 5 (EAB in firewood), David Wright (ash tree), Lindy Buckley (ash leaves), Eli Sagor (Black ash bark), a200/a77Wells (ash seeds); all images found on flickr.com and used with permission via Creative Commons license 2.0

Eric R. Day, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org (canopy); Minnesota Department of Agriculture (tree damage, exit holes and blonding); Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org (sprouts)

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