



Emerald Ash Borer – FAQs

What is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

EAB is an insect pest introduced from Asia that attacks and kills ash trees. The insects cut off the flow of water and nutrients within the trees by feeding underneath the bark. All species and sizes of ash trees (genus: Fraxinus) are susceptible. If a tree has become infested with EAB, mortality will generally result within 2-3 years. In North America, the beetle was initially discovered in Michigan and southwest Ontario in 2002, and the first infestations in the City of Toronto were detected in 2007 and in York Region (Vaughan) in 2008.

What will the impact of EAB be in Toronto and York Region?

It is estimated that the City of Toronto will lose nearly all of its 860,000 ash trees to EAB by 2017, a number which represents 8.4% of canopy cover in the urban forest. However, in certain areas of the city (such as Scarborough and parts of North York and west Toronto), ash trees make up a much greater proportion of the canopy.

In York Region, EAB is expected to have a significant impact, as it is anticipated that most of the estimated 2,800,000 mature ash trees growing in the area (700,000 of which are found in the urban forest, and 2,100,000 in rural woodlands) will become infested and die within the next ten to fifteen years.

How do I know if I have an ash tree in my yard?

Visual guide from the City of London:

http://www.london.ca/Trees_Lawns_and_Gardens/PDFs/EAB_identificationguide.pdf

Ash tree identification video from Emerald Ash Borer Info website:

<http://emeraldashborer.info/videos/ashtreeid.cfm>

What should I do if I have an ash tree in my yard?

Begin by educating yourself - read the resources at www.yourleaf.org/emerald-ash-borer. In addition, consulting with an arborist to determine if your tree is infested with EAB and to help with the decision-making process is advised. To find an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture in your area visit www.isa-arbor.com or call 1-888-463-2316.

How do I know if my ash tree is infested?

It is very difficult to detect the presence of EAB in the early stages, as many of the visible signs and symptoms appear only after two or more years of infestation.

The following signs may be visible:

- S-shaped larval gallery
- D-shaped beetle exit hole
- Feeding notch in the leaf



The following symptoms are a tree's response to being attacked by EAB:

- Premature yellowing of foliage
- Dead branches
- Thinning crowns
- Bark cracks
- Shoots (suckers) growing out of the trunk
- Heavy seed production
- Woodpecker and squirrel feeding sites

Please note that other insects, diseases, and problems can demonstrate similar signs and symptoms as those listed above, and thus is it advisable that you contact a certified arborist to confirm whether or not EAB is present in your tree.

What are my options if I have a healthy ash tree on my property?

TreeAzin™ is registered for use in Canada as a treatment against EAB. It is produced from extracts of Neem tree seeds. You may want to consider TreeAzin™ injections if your ash trees appear healthy. To learn more visit www.bioforest.ca.

Toronto homeowners can also choose to treat city-owned trees on the road allowance in front of their home. Treatment will be regulated by a service agreement and will be at the homeowner's expense. Homeowners may hire contractors bound by an agreement found at: www.toronto.ca/trees/pdfs/contractor_services_agreement_information.pdf. York Region homeowners should check with their municipality to see if similar options are available.

What are my options if I have an infested ash tree on my property?

If you think that an ash tree on your private property is infested and needs to be removed, please visit please visit www.isa-arbor.com or www.treesaregood.com or call 1-888-463-2316 to find a qualified tree care company in your area that has the equipment necessary to remove your tree safely. They should also be able to guide you through the permit application process if this is required. (see "Tips for Selecting a Tree Care Company")

How can I plant trees to replace those lost to EAB?

LEAF offers a subsidized Backyard Tree Planting Program. We are here to make the replanting process easy, by providing arborist advice to help you select the right EAB-resistant tree for your yard. We offer hardy native trees and planting services, all at a subsidized price. To learn more about our Backyard Tree Planting Program, please visit www.yourleaf.org.

The City of Toronto offers a free Street Tree Planting Program. Visit www.toronto.ca/trees/tree_planting.htm for more information.