

## Emerald Ash Borer: A Threat to North Dakota's Trees

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is the most serious threat to ash trees in North Dakota, the Great Plains, and North America.

This exotic pest attacks and kills ALL ash trees. To date, nearly 25 million ash trees have been killed in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and adjacent Canada.

If no action is taken, damage from the emerald ash borer will place a huge economic and environmental burden on North Dakota residents, land managers, and municipalities.

### What's at stake in North Dakota?

There are 46.9 million ash trees in North Dakota's woodlands and forests. The compensatory value of this resource is estimated to be \$3.55 billion!

Ash is the most common tree planted in North Dakota communities. In the city of Bismarck alone, it would cost \$5.2 million to remove dead ash trees and replant.

Green ash represents a large percentage of the state's 55,000 miles of shelterbelts.



*Photo of an adult emerald ash borer.*  
Courtesy of David Cappaert, MSU

The EAB is easily spread to new areas when people transport infested firewood. Quarantines have been imposed, but enforcement of this action has been insufficient to prevent further spread of the pest.

### What Can Citizens Do?

This harmful pest has already killed 25 million trees in the upper Midwest. Scientists believe that the EAB is likely to arrive in North Dakota in the years to come. The emerald ash borer can be easily spread to new areas in infested firewood and nursery stock. Help keep this pest out of North Dakota and take action to minimize its potential damage by following these simple steps:

- 1) Don't bring firewood from other states into North Dakota. If someone you know is planning a trip to North Dakota, make sure that they leave their firewood at home. If they have already brought it, burn it immediately!
- 2) Plant species in addition to ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) where soils and climate allow. By planting no more than two rows of any one species, diversity can be maintained in conservation plantings.
- 3) Plant other species in towns. Currently, there is an over-abundance of ash within many North Dakota communities. No single species should constitute more than 20 percent of the entire tree population.
- 4) Stay current with up-to-date information by visiting the following website frequently:  
[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

*Copied, with minor modifications, from a fact sheet created by Michael Kangas, Forest Health Specialist, ND Forest Service*