

Emerald Ash Borer

In July 2002, an exotic beetle was discovered in Michigan. The emerald ash borer is a small (1/2-inch long), metallic green beetle native to Asia. The emerald ash borer lays its eggs in ash trees, and larvae feed in between the bark and wood. The larvae excavate galleries that eventually kill branches and entire trees. Since its discovery, the emerald ash borer has killed tens of millions of trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Virginia, Ontario and Quebec.

Since the confirmation of the Emerald Ash Borer in the Midwest, the Forest Preserve District of Will County has been working with the Morton Arboretum and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to monitor several forest preserves for the insects' presence. To date none has been found in the Will County Forest Preserves.

Signs and Symptoms

The most visible sign of infestation is dieback of the crown of an ash tree, which appears after the first year. Branches high on the tree will die first, and lower branches will die in subsequent years. The tree will be completely dead in about three years. Adult beetles emerging from trees might leave a small, 1/8-inch diameter "D" shaped exit hole. These holes may appear anywhere on the trunk and upper branches.

If You Suspect the Presence of an Emerald Ash Borer on Private Property

To help in identifying suspect insects, visit www.emeraldashborer.info.

Call the national emerald ash borer hotline at **866.322.4512**.

Call the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Hotline at **800.641.3934**. In the Chicago area, use **312-74BEETL (312.742.3385)**.

In Will County, call the Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic at **630.719.2424**.

If You Suspect the Presence of an Emerald Ash Borer on Forest Preserve Property

Call the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Research Monitoring Manager at **815.727.8700**.

