

# Destructive Ash Tree Beetle Found In Iowa

Officials in Iowa have confirmed that the invasive beetle that kills ash trees, the emerald ash borer (EAB), has been found along the banks of the Mississippi River in Allamakee County. This is the first confirmed EAB infestation in Iowa.

Iowans are urged not to move firewood. The movement of firewood throughout Iowa and to other states poses the greatest threat to quickly spread EAB even further.

Areas currently infested with EAB are under federal and state quarantines; however, unknowing campers or others who transport firewood can spark an outbreak. As a result, officials are asking Iowans to not move firewood and instead buy wood where they are staying and burn it completely. Officials are also working on getting a state and federal quarantine designation for Iowa.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is native to eastern Asia, and was detected in the United States near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. EAB kills all ash species by larval burrowing under the bark and eating the actively growing layers. The metallic-green adult beetles are a half inch long and are active from late-May to early-August in Iowa.

EAB has killed ash trees of various sizes in neighborhoods and woodlands throughout the Midwest. According to recent sources, Iowa has an estimated 58 million rural ash trees and approximately 30 million more ash trees in urban areas.

## ***What Can Homeowners Do?***

Iowa State University Extension said treatment options to protect ash trees from this destructive pest are available, but careful and thoughtful analysis is needed to circumvent spread of false information and excessive and needless use of insecticides.

The first step for many is confirming that you do have an ash tree. Only ash trees are susceptible to EAB attack; all species and varieties of ash trees are at risk. Second is determining if the ash tree is in vigorous health. Trees must be healthy and growing for treatments to be effective.

Forest, horticulture, and insect specialists with ISU Extension have developed a guide that outlines management options against EAB. The publication "Emerald Ash Borer Management Options," released June 2009, can be downloaded from their website [www.extension.iastate.edu/store](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/store).

More information is also available on the ISU emerald ash borer website [www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html).