

Treeways

February 2013

How do I know to I have emerald ash borer (EAB)? If your tree is not an ash tree then you do not have EAB.

Have you noticed a lot of green, disfigured, leaves falling from you tree? Have you have noticed and overall yellowing of the tree's leaves? EAB does not cause these symptoms.

If you have a green ash, a white ash, or a black ash tree then it is possible for your tree to have EAB.

If you noticed that your tree's foliage appears to be thinner than you remember, especially in the top 1/3 of the tree, then your tree may have EAB or a number of other conditions that have similar symptoms.

If you noticed that your ash tree has substantially more dead limbs than last year, then your tree may have EAB or another condition causing long-term decline.

If your tree has clusters of epicormic sprouts growing from the lower trunk and roots, then you may have EAB or another disease with similar symptoms. These bunches of sprouts are a survival mechanism and often have larger leaves than normal.

If your tree the favorite of neighborhood woodpeckers, then you may have EAB or other wood boring insects. Woodpeckers really seem to like EAB larva and woodpecker-feeding sites may help us find new infestations. Winter is a good time to look for new infestations with the help of our woodpecker friends.

If there are linear splits through the bark on the trunk or branches and if there are serpentine larval feeding galleries visible under the bark splits, then you may have EAB.

Unfortunately by the time ash trees exhibit the above signs and symptoms many of these trees will be beyond saving. They will have been infested for three or more years and have already become a source for EAB flying out to start new infestations. Infested trees have compromised vascular systems that limit the effectiveness of insecticide treatments.

The bottom line is preventative treatments can save your special or legacy ash trees even though the ash forest is dying. Reforestation is the long-term answer – don't wait till you have already lost your ash. Watch for information about the Arbor Day Green Fair on May 4.

Jim Naves
Sunfish Lake City Forester
612-803-9033
jim@lstrecare.com