



Devens Public Notice: 6/29/18 Emerald Ash Borer found in Devens Street Trees

On June 21, 2018, Devens Department of Public Works identified a number of damaged ash trees along Sherman Avenue. Upon further investigation, the tree damage appeared to have been from pests. The Devens Enterprise Commission reported the finding to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Forest Health Program (DCR) and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). On June 26, 2018, MDAR and DCR confirmed the pest in question was in fact the Emerald Ash Borer. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, invasive beetle that is devastating to all ash tree species in Massachusetts. It is currently present in 8 counties in Massachusetts and continues to spread. The EAB only attacks ash trees.



Adult emerald ash borer, file photo by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

What is being done?

As the impacted trees are on public property, Devens Department of Public Works will be removing and properly disposing of the impacted ash trees to try and prevent further spread. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Forest Health Program is working in partnership with the USDA and US Forest Service to establish biocontrol species to help minimize the impact of the emerald ash borer and to protect our valuable ash trees. All biocontrol species are thoroughly researched prior to introduction into the ecosystem to avoid any negative impacts. Three biocontrol species have been released in Massachusetts, the larval parasitoids *Tetrastichus planipennis* and *Spathius galinae* and the egg parasitoid *Oobius agrili*. The biocontrols appear to be a promising tool against the emerald ash borer.



S-shaped galleries left by EAB Larva (look for year round)

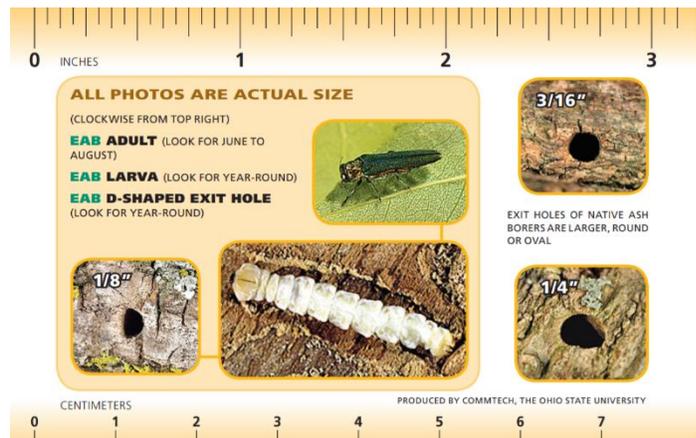
If you have ash trees on your property:

The USDA Forest Service has published an EAB Identification Guide that can help you identify this invasive pest: <https://tinyurl.com/EABIDENT>. Individuals with concern for ash trees on their property should consult a certified arborist. Preventative pesticide treatments can be used for individual trees in close proximity to known infestations. However, pesticide applications do carry risks to the native insect community as well so such applications should only be performed by a licensed pesticide applicator.

For more information:

Additional information and resources on the Emerald Ash Borer can be found on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts website at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/emerald-ash-borer-in-massachusetts>. The Devens Enterprise Commission and Devens Department of Public Works will continue to coordinate with MDAR and DCR and monitor the situation in Devens and provide periodic updates to the general public and surrounding communities.

Neil Angus, Environmental Planner
Devens Enterprise Commission
neilangus@devensec.com
978.772.8831



USDA Forest Service EAB Identification Guide: <https://tinyurl.com/EABIDENT>