

## **Emerald Ash Borer**

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive insect native to Asia, feeds on ash trees and has caused the decline and death of tens of millions of ash trees in the Great Lakes and mid-Atlantic regions. Since 2002, EAB has rapidly become one of the most destructive forest insect pests in North America.

EAB may prefer to lay eggs or feed on stressed trees, but healthy ash trees are also susceptible. Small trees may die within 1 to 2 years of becoming infested and large tree can be killed in 3 to 4 years.

New infestations can be difficult to detect because damage to the tree may not be apparent for up to 3 years. Symptoms of EAB feeding begin in the upper portions of the branch structure and can include branch dieback, excessive production of water sprouts or “suckers” on the tree trunk, and vertical splits in the bark. Heavy woodpecker damage is sometimes present.

In March 2012, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture confirmed an infestation of EAB in Warrington, Bucks County. Since then, it has been confirmed in other areas of Pennsylvania and it currently has been detected in 32 counties in Pennsylvania.

According to university studies, if you live within 10 to 15 miles of the confirmed EAB infestation in Warrington, PA (that includes much of Bucks and Montgomery counties), you should consider protecting high value ash trees.

Insecticides can effectively protect your ash trees from EAB. Preventative treatments and treatments to tree with minor infestations are most effective. Trees with more than 50% canopy decline are unlikely to recover even if treated. It has been shown that effectiveness of insecticides has been less consistent on larger trees. When treating very large ash trees, 25-inches in trunk diameter and larger, we feel it may be advantageous to consider combining two treatment strategies.

Left alone, EAB has a tremendous capacity for population growth, and infestations can expand rapidly. Early detection and a rapid response are key factors in treating and successfully managing EAB.

Clauser offers different approaches to aid in protecting your ash trees depending on the level of control desired and on the price you are willing to pay. Call us today to discuss your options.