

## EMERALD ASH BORER

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native beetle that infects [ash trees](#). It has made its way to NJ. [Click here for a US map showing infestation](#). The EAB is very active in May/June and stay active through August. The adult beetle is approximately 1/2" long and 1/8" wide, metallic green in color with a coppery red abdomen (see below picture). The beetle feeds on the ash leaves and deposits its eggs in the tree bark, where the larvae emerge the following April/May.



Since the EAB adults feed on the leaves, they are difficult to spot from the ground. As the number of EAB's increase, signs of infestation become more visible and include splitting bark, D shaped exit holes on branches and trunks, increased woodpecker activity (they eat the larvae), etc. Once a tree has become infected, it will likely die within 3-4 years.

A national survey is currently underway to determine the extent EAB infestation, however, NJ is one of the seventeen states that is not participating in this survey. Byram Township is voluntarily participating in a survey, to determine if there are any EABs in our area. You may see a brightly colored purple plastic detection "trap" hung on higher branches of an ash tree. This "trap" is actually thin purple plastic that is folded into a triangle shape and coated with sticky non-toxic glue. It also contains a lure (simulating ash trees) to attract the beetles. The "trap" is only used to determine if EAB is present and is not meant to reduce the amount of beetles; it is only used to detect new infestations and monitor the spread of EAB in an area. The "traps" will be removed in the Fall and data will be collected at that time.

See below for a picture of a "trap".



In the event that an ash tree has been infested with EAB, the USDA recommends to contact a certified tree expert in your area. He/she may be able to utilize insecticide to save the tree, or the tree may need to be removed.

Please contact the NJ Dept. of Agriculture at 609-406-6939 or visit [www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov) to report this.

Additional Resources:

[DEP Information](#)

[Emerald Ash Info From NJ](#)

[Basic Introductory Material on EAB](#)

[Emerald Ash Borer Network](#)