

## Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an Insect that Destroys Ash Trees and it's Coming Our Way

By Tom Warner  
DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

The invasive (spreading) species, the Emerald Ash Borer, was accidentally brought to the United States from Asia in the 1990s. It was first discovered in Michigan in 2002. Since then it has been found in Ontario, Canada, and the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Although it can fly short distances on its own, much of its spread is due to humans transporting it as larvae burrowed under bark of firewood or landscape trees.

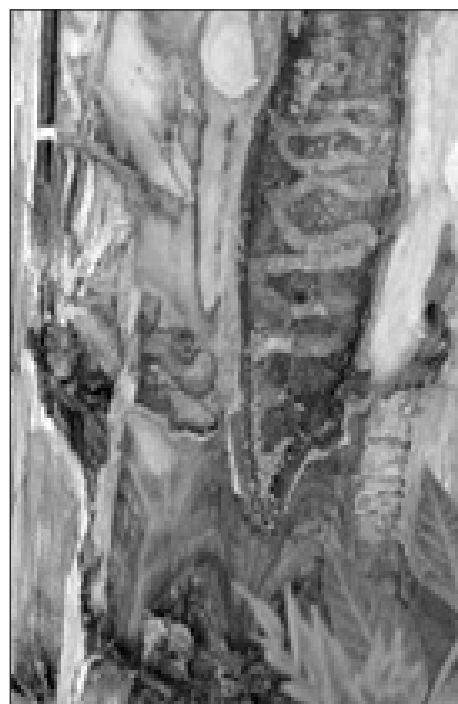
In North America, EAB only kills ash trees. But it does so in great numbers. EAB has killed millions of ash trees already. It is expected to have a huge effect on Minnesota's landscape and the 937 million ash trees that grow in our cities and forests.

The problem with EAB is its larvae. Adult female emerald ash borers, descendents of the accidentally imported insects, lay their eggs on the bark of ash trees. When the eggs hatch, the larvae burrow under the bark and eat the living tissue they find there. As they do, they cut off the life-giving channels that carry nutrients, water, and sugar to nourish the tree. After two or three years, enough of the channels are cut off that the tree starves to death.

**Alert:** May 14, 2009- Emerald ash borer was found in a St. Paul neighborhood. This is the first detection of the destructive pest in Minnesota.

### Signs and symptoms of EAB in ash trees:

- Dying branches at the top of an ash tree. One-third to one-half of the branches may die in one year. Most of the canopy will be dead within two years of when symptoms are first detected.
- Sprouts may push out from around the trunk after the upper portions of the tree dies.
- D-shaped exit holes in bark, roughly 1/8 inch in diameter, when they emerge in June
- S-shaped trails under bark
- Adult beetles are roughly 3/8 to 5/8



The Emerald Ash Borer leaves S-shaped trails under the bark.

inch long with metallic green wing covers and a coppery red or purple abdomen. They may be present from late May through early September but are most common in June and July.

### How does the Emerald Ash Borer spread?

We know EAB adults can fly at least 1/2 mile from the tree where they emerge. Many infestations, however, were started when people moved infested ash nursery trees, logs, or firewood into uninfested areas.

### How big a problem is EAB?

EAB is becoming an international problem. The scope of this problem could reach the billions of dollars nationwide if not dealt with. State and federal agencies have made this problem a priority. Homeowners can also help by carefully monitoring their ash trees for signs and symptoms of EAB throughout the year.

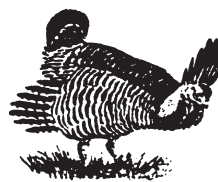
### Where to call if you suspect Emerald Ash Borer

If it looks like emerald ash borer or emerald ash borer damage, call either your county Extension office, or in Minnesota call 1-888-545-6684 (Arrest-the-Pest Hotline)



## LCCMR Grant Approved for ROCK OUT CROP AREAS

Chippewa County, along with Yellow Medicine, Renville, LqP, Redwood county were successful in obtaining LCCMR funding to enroll sensitive rock out crop areas into perpetual easements. These areas are unique landforms in the upper Minnesota River Valley that host a number of rare plant and animal species and even small wetland complexes found nowhere in the state. The easements will protect these geological rarities and enhance the native vegetation on and around the outcroppings.



## Prairie Country RC&D Report

Larry Kittelson  
SWCD REPRESENTATIVE

Over the past 18 years, the Prairie Country RC&D Council has assisted local people plan and implement several natural resource and economic development related projects. This past year, the Prairie Country RC&D continued to provide assistance on several ongoing projects, including the Chippewa River, Crow River, Hawk Creek, Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank River, Shakopee Creek and Pomme de Terre River Watershed Projects. Nearly \$1.6 million in additional grants were obtained this past year to move the watershed and Prairie Country projects forward. Some of the other project assistance provided by the Prairie Country Council in 2009 included:

- Assisted the Minnesota Association of RC&D Council's with fiscal agent services for the Statewide Grazing Workshop Project.
- Continue to assist the Chippewa River Watershed Local Work Group carry out Project implementation grants.
- Continued to assist rural fire departments with the planning and

installation of dry hydrants.

- Continue to monitor and evaluate the woody riparian buffer and direct seeding of hardwoods demonstration projects.
- Continue to promote locally grown foods throughout the Prairie Country Area.
- Developed a new website for Prairie Country RC&D to inform the public of our programs, projects and services.
- Completed a Red Cedar Marketing Report to outline potential of the red cedar resource in the Prairie Country area.
- Began implementation of the Council's Area (Long Range) Plan which highlighted the area's concerns and needs and outlined goals and strategies to address the needs over the next five year period.

Most of the Council's water quality, economic development and demonstration projects will be carried into 2010 and as in the past, local people will again bring new projects to the Council for assistance.

Larry Kittelson, Chippewa SWCD Supervisor and Jeff Lopez, Chippewa County Commissioner represent Chippewa County on the Prairie Country RC&D Council.