

Stop the Emerald Ash Borer



The emerald ash borer (EAB), a small, exotic pest, has arrived in Lexington-Fayette County. The EAB has been responsible for the death and decline of tens of millions of ash trees in the U.S. and Canada and threatens a significant number of ash trees in Lexington-Fayette County.

To prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer, Kentucky has issued a quarantine for 20 Kentucky counties, including Lexington-Fayette County, that prohibits the transportation of firewood, nursery stock and other ash wood products that can spread the insect infestation.

It is especially important that firewood not be moved into or out of a county. Campers should not bring firewood from home to a camp site. Buy firewood locally and burn all of it at the campsite. Do not take firewood home with you.

For more information, please visit
www.lexingtonky.gov/EAB

Or contact

Urban Forestry at 425-2558

livegreenlexington.com



What is the Emerald Ash Borer?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a bright, metallic green insect that is about 1/2" long. Its larvae damage ash trees by tunneling under the bark and disrupting the tree's vascular system, starving and killing the tree.



How can I identify ash trees?

Ash trees are often used in residential and commercial landscaping and represent eight percent of known trees in Fayette County. Ash trees have oval-shaped leaves which grow opposite each other. The bark on some mature ash trees grows in a diamond-shaped pattern.

What are the signs of EAB infestation?

- Crown dieback or thinning of canopy
- D-shaped 1/8" exit holes in the bark
- Serpentine-shaped tunnels under bark
- Young sprout growth at base of tree
- Woodpecker activity
- Vertical splits in bark



How does chemical treatment work?

There are three basic options to provide protection for your ash tree.

- Tree injection methods
- Trunk spray applications
- Soil injections or soil drench applications

Several insecticide options for controlling the EAB exist, for both homeowner and professional tree care use. It is generally assumed that multiple treatments over time will be necessary.



Should my ash tree be removed?

Dead or dying ash trees will have to be removed, especially if they're between the sidewalk and the curb. Hiring a tree care professional is recommended for safe tree removal.

Lexington's Division of Waste Management provides curbside pickup for properly prepared tree limbs in the Urban Services Area. For more information on yard waste and disposal options, visit www.lexingtonky.gov/wastemanagement or call LexCall at 311 or 425-CALL.