



ST. JOHN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

...Working for you to help sustain Maine's abundant natural resources since 1942

EMERALD ASH BORER SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

Discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) will change how ash is allowed to move

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was recently discovered in Madawaska, less than 200 yards from the Frenchville town line. This is the first detection of EAB in Maine. Because EAB attacks and kills all species of ash (except mountain ash), it presents a serious threat to Maine's forest and shade trees. It is also a federally and internationally quarantined pest, which further adds priority to Maine's response.

As a first step the MFS is proposing to place a temporary, emergency "stop movement" order on all live ash, ash logs and pulpwood and on all untreated firewood from Madawaska and Frenchville, Aroostook County.

This emergency order is a temporary, stop-gap measure to address the immediate threat of inadvertent movement of EAB while the DACF and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) negotiate the size and conditions of a formal state/federal quarantine.

What is emerald ash borer?

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that attacks, and kills ash trees. Native to China, eastern Russia, Japan, and Korea, it was first detected in North America near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. Research has shown that it was introduced and became established by the early to mid-1990s.

EAB has been recently discovered in Madawaska, Maine, and is expected to establish in other parts of Maine. With over 100 million native ash trees located throughout Maine, EAB will have significant economic and ecological impacts.

What kind of damage does EAB do?

It takes 3-5 years for infested trees to die. Research suggests that a low level of tree resistance may occur, though less than 1% of ash trees are expected to survive the EAB invasion. Ash mortality is widespread in areas where EAB is established.

EAB damages ash trees by feeding on the inner bark. Feeding by high densities of EAB larvae score the sapwood and disrupt the movement of water and nutrients within infested trees.

How can I tell if I have EAB?

Woodpecker damage to live ash trees may be the first sign that a tree is infested. When feeding on EAB, woodpeckers scrape off outer bark, leaving smooth, light colored patches. If the bark is removed, S-shaped galleries weaving back and forth on the surface of the wood may be visible. The D-shaped exit holes are good EAB indicators, but are small and can be difficult to see.



EAB damages ash trees by feeding on the inner bark



EAB-infested ash trees often die in 3-5 years.

Adult beetles are ½" long and metallic green. Under the wing covers, their abdomen is purple. Adult EAB may be present between June and August.

Should I cut my ash trees?

Plan for EAB now if you have ash trees in your woods. You need to act if you expect to salvage ash in your woodlot. The Maine Forest Service recommends that woodland owners work with a licensed consulting forester when making decisions or undertaking management activities in their woods. Your Maine Forest Service District Forester can help you locate licensed consulting foresters in your area. Additionally, District Foresters can answer questions on actions to take in managing your woodlot, provide publications, and tell you about upcoming EAB workshops or events.

It could be many years before EAB shows up in your woods. Consider the ecological, aesthetic, and economic value of your ash, your tolerance of risk, and your objectives for ownership. Stay abreast of new information to avoid short-sighted decisions. Plan for EAB now if you have ash trees in your woods. Know what's at risk: how much ash you have, its size and quality, and where the ash is located. Your potential losses may be minimal and require little to no additional management. During scheduled harvests, take steps to limit your exposure to EAB loss, including reducing the percentage of large ash trees.

If the trees are too small to yield high-value sawlogs, you may get a better return if you allow them to grow. They will increase in volume and may improve in grade, which will lead to a better financial return. If the trees are attacked by EAB, harvest quickly for highest quality veneer and sawtimber. Once EAB feeding causes 50% crown dieback, the high-value sapwood can be discolored.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO NORTH AMERICAN ASH TREES?

Many ash trees are still growing in every infested state. Even where mortality has been severe, the occasional “lingering” ash has survived. Partial resistance has been found in North American blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*). White ash is thought to be genetically diverse, providing hope that some genetic resistance may occur in that species as well.

Parasitoid wasps and predators may help reduce EAB populations. Several Asian parasitoids have been approved and released, and are becoming established in the US. As these efforts continue, the impact of EAB may be reduced, making it more manageable in the future.

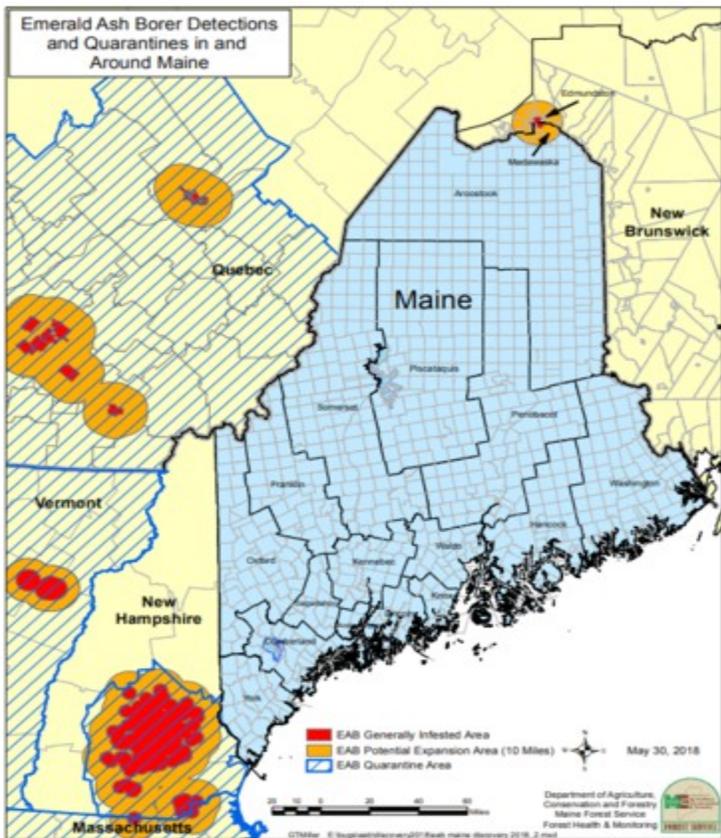
The threat of imminent tree mortality increases when EAB is detected within 10 miles of your property. When cutting consider leaving scattered, and small diameter ash trees in the woods. Ash left behind may help slow dispersal of EAB, helps manage spread, and provides genetic diversity in cases of tolerance/resistance to EAB. The last trees standing will be the last to produce seed.

Emerald ash borer was first discovered in the Detroit, Michigan area in 2002, though it is believed to have arrived in the 1990s. Hundreds of millions of trees across the country have been killed. Experts have long believed that the insect has been present in Maine but undetected despite an aggressive effort to find it. EAB has the potential to destroy over eight billion ash trees as it spreads rapidly, and can kill nearly an entire forest stand of ash within six years of infestation.

Ash trees comprise 4 percent of Maine’s hardwood forest and are also an important street tree. Ash trees are a key component of North American forests. They provide habitat and food for birds, squirrels, and insects, and support important pollinator species such as butterflies, and moths. There are no practical means to control EAB in forested areas, though pesticide treatments can protect individual trees. Slowing the spread of EAB is crucial. An emerald ash borer generally moves only about one half-mile on its own in a year, but can move hundreds of miles in a single day within a piece of infested firewood.

CAMP FIREWOOD

Emerald ash borer is not the only threat to our forests that can move in the seemingly benign firewood brought to camp. Numerous other insects and diseases can also hitchhike in firewood. If you have friends or family planning to visit Maine, make sure they are aware of the state and federal rules that ban movement of untreated firewood.



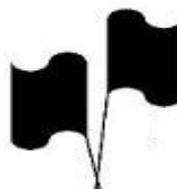
SJVSWCD MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018

NAME: _____ PLEDGE AMOUNT: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ Valley Friend.....\$25.00
 TOWN: _____ ZIP: _____ Valley Steward.....\$50.00
 Valley Patron.....\$100.00
 Valley Visionary.....\$250.00+
 EMAIL: _____ Other

Please return this form with your check payable to St. John Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, 139 Market Street, Suite 106, Fort Kent, ME 04743

Marking Flags

**\$12.00/Bundle of 100
 plus 66 cents tax**



WHAT IS THE ST. JOHN VALLEY SWCD?

The St. John Valley SWCD is one of thousands of SWCD's around the country, each governed by a volunteer Board of Supervisors. Our purpose is to use and coordinate all available technical, financial, and educational resources to address the needs of local land owners and users for the conservation of soil, water and other natural resources. In addition, we work with and assist governmental agencies and non-profit organizations.

Our Mission: *To provide local landowners, land users, and other individuals and organizations with the information, education, and technical assistance they need to help protect and enhance Maine's natural resources and to use them wisely. The St. John Valley Soil and Water Conservation District seeks to foster and encourage the development of an enduring land stewardship ethic among residents of the St. John River Valley.*

We strive to accomplish this by hosting conservation field days, workshops and related demonstrations throughout the Valley. In addition, we provide a link to the invaluable technical services provided not only by the Districts themselves, but also by such federal agencies as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Maine DACF (Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry).