

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

EMERALD ASH BORER

(*Agrilus planipennis*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS ANIMAL?

DESCRIPTION

Emerald ash borers...

- Are metallic blue-green in colour.
- Are narrow shaped and elongated, 8.5-14 mm long and 3.1-3.4 mm wide.
- Have a prothorax (body segment closest to head) that is rectangular and slightly larger than the head.
- Have rounded tips on the elytra (wing covers).
- Have short antennae, not extending past head.
- Are not found on the ground.
- Are 26-32 mm long and creamy white in colour as mature larvae.

PRIMARY THREAT:

Emerald Ash Borers are highly destructive, feeding on and eventually killing host trees (all species of Ash- Fraxinus).

SPREAD

Emerald ash borers have been spread by the movement of infested nursery stock (ash saplings), logs and firewood. This spread is possible at any life stage (egg, larvae, pupae or adult). Eggs are laid in tree bark and then larvae burrow into the tree, feeding on the inner bark and sapwood. Immature beetles that have exited the tree will feed on leaves, and then disperse by flight to search for a new host tree.

Emerald ash borers can be found in agricultural areas, natural forests, planted forests, and urban areas where ash trees (*Fraxinus*) exist.

DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

Emerald Ash Borers are native to China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia, Russia and Taiwan. **Emerald ash borers were confirmed present in the Metro Vancouver area in 2023.**

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/plant-health/gardenguide-3-invasives.pdf>



Photo Credit: Howard Russell, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

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www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species







Photo Credit: Gary Parsons, Michigan State University



EMERALD ASH BORER (*Agrilus planipennis*)

LOOK-ALIKES:

The Emerald Ash Borer, like all species of the genus *Agrilus*, have a characteristic “bullet” or cylindrical shape. Insects with a similar shape or colour may be confused for the Emerald Ash Borer.

<p>Shield Bugs (Pentatomoidea)</p>  <p>Photo Credit: Frank Pears, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org</p>	<p>Tiger Beetles (Carabidae)</p>  <p>Photo Credit: Kansas Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org</p>	<p>Golden Buprestid (<i>Buprestis aurulenta</i>)</p>  <p>Photo Credit: Scott Tunnock, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org</p>	<p>Bronze Birch Borer (<i>Agrilus anxius</i>)</p>  <p>Photo Credit: Steven Valley, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shape and size completely different.• Body shape (triangular to semielliptical) and size depends on species.• Produce foul smelling liquid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only found on the ground.• Have long legs.• Have white spots on the green body.• Jaws can be seen protruding from the mouth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have red and green vertical lines on wing covers.• Grow to be 15-22 mm long.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attack birch trees.• Dark bronze in colour.• Can grow to be 35 mm long.

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www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Don't move firewood or other potentially infested wood material over long distances. Burn it where you buy it!
- If you are purchasing ash nursery stock from infested provinces, check the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website to determine the areas currently regulated for Emerald Ash Borers. Do not purchase ash nursery stock from infested areas!
- Raise awareness to avoid spread into B.C. forests.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are signs that a tree could be infested with Emerald Ash Borer:

- **S-shaped galleries:** Found in inner bark and outer sapwood, filled with fine brownish fine wood powder.
- **D-shaped exit holes:** Caused when adult insect leaves tree, on the outer bark surface.
- **General tree appearance:** Tree appears to be thinning at the crown, dead branches, yellowing of leaves.

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Photo Credit: Christopher Asaro, Virginia Department of Forestry, Bugwood.org

