



BARRETT
LAWN CARE, INC.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been present in the Twin Cities for several years. So far the quarantine of this insect inside Hennepin and Ramsey County has been effective. Last year there were rumors that the abnormal cold temperatures during the winter would eradicate these pests. Needless to say, it did not. In the middle of December the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) confirmed EAB in the Dakota county area.

Emerald Ash Borer is a small insect, bright green in color, and is only as long as a penny at the adult stage.

The larvae tunnel within the wood of the tree feeding on sap and creating S-shaped patterns under the bark. As the larvae grow, they overwinter in the tree, then in the spring emerge as adults. Adults tunnel out of the tree creating a small D-shaped hole in the bark. This D-shaped hole is only about a 1/8 of an inch wide. The adults then migrate to other Ash trees and lay eggs and the cycle continues.



Symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer include thinning canopy starting at the top of the tree and working its way down. Peeling bark, D-shaped holes, and S-shaped patterns under the bark are also visible if the tree is infected.

These insects can be controlled through different methods. The key is to not transport any wood that may be infected. This is most likely the reason the pest came here in the first place. Another method of control is insecticide. Preventative control is recommended because of the destructive nature of these insects. Once trees are showing symptoms of EAB it is normally too late. There are a few companies in the Twin Cities that offer control of this pest, including Barrett Lawn Care. The insecticide is a simple liquid formula that gets injected directly into the tree. It is safe for kids, pets, and adults because it goes into the tree and there isn't residue or odor left after the application. Spring applications are recommended because of the trees active uptake of water and nutrients. Fall applications can be performed, however, this is not an ideal time.

With over 1 billion Ash trees in the state of Minnesota we are at risk of losing all of these without proper awareness and preventative control. Please take the time to look at your ash trees and determine if this pest may be present in your neighborhood. If desired, a qualified specialist can evaluate your property. Remember, the key to stopping this pest is to stop the movement of infected wood and treating healthy ash trees to prevent infestation.

