

## **Emerald Ash Borer Found at Moose Lake**

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The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and USDA Forest Service have confirmed the presence of the invasive, ash killing beetle, emerald ash borer (EAB) on federal and private properties at the southern end of Moose Lake (Fig. 1). Many ash trees there have likely been infested for several years and are in decline. EAB is now established and will continue to spread and kill nearly all the ash in Moose Lake and the surrounding area over the next 5-10 years.



**Figure 1.** Paul Cigan, DNR Forest Health Specialist, peeling bark from an EAB infested ash trees near Moose Lake, Sawyer County WI.

There are several options for preparing for and mitigating the negative impacts of EAB.

### **Yard Tree Insecticide Treatment**

Property owners with healthy, valuable ash trees can consider treating them with insecticide this spring to protect against EAB. However, it is not practical to treat ash trees growing in the forest.

A common first sign of EAB infestation is woodpecker damage (Fig. 2) that is created when birds feed on EAB larvae beneath the bark of ash trees. Treatment of infested ash trees is typically more successful if the trees have low or moderate levels of woodpecker damage. Now is a good time to consider insecticide protection because the treatments are typically done between mid-April and mid-May.



**Figure 2.** Heavily infested ash tree with woodpecker damage near Moose Lake.

Some insecticide products can be applied by homeowners, and others must be applied by a certified professional. Review the available options before selecting an insecticide and treatment method. Visit the [Wisconsin EAB website](#) and [EAB Information Network website](#) for information about insecticides.

Unprotected ash that are dead or declining from EAB are often structurally weakened and present a safety hazard. These trees are also more hazardous to remove, so consult a tree care professional. Additional information on protective treatments can be found [here](#).

### **Forest Management Considerations**

The forests surrounding Moose Lake are primarily mixed hardwood with ash generally representing a minor component of the overall stand stocking. However, there are pockets with dense black ash in the area, and special considerations will be necessary to address the losses within them.

Management activities to reduce the impact of EAB should focus on encouraging the establishment and growth of non-ash tree species and capturing economic value prior to loss from EAB. These objectives can be accomplished in many ways, such as stand thinning and seedling underplanting. Please consult the [DNR's EAB Silviculture Guidelines](#) for additional information.

### **Don't Move Firewood**

The Moose Lake infestation likely resulted from firewood brought from an infested area. EAB can live underneath the bark (Fig. 3) for a year and can emerge from wood. If the wood is transported elsewhere, there is a risk of new infestations. Therefore, it is critical to keep ash wood local, if not on site, to slow the spread of this damaging pest.



**Figure 3.** EAB feeding tunnels (i.e., galleries) underneath the bark of black ash tree near Moose Lake. EAB can easily travel in logs and cut firewood and start new infestations if hauled to a new area.