

# Morton Arboretum Holds Conference on Emerald Ash Borer Research & Development December 2003



Windy City White Ash at  
McHenry County Nursery  
Fall 2003



Autumn Purple White Ash at  
McHenry County Nursery  
Fall 2003

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# The Emerald Ash Borer

In the biological world, the best protection against unwanted pests and diseases is prevention. The recent discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer in Michigan is a perfect example. Perhaps you have heard about Michigan state and its fast action by its Department of Agriculture to contain and eradicate the Emerald Ash Borer.



Healthy Patmore Ash at McHenry County Nursery- Fall 2003



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# The Emerald Ash Borer- Exotic Pest

When an exotic pest (one not native to the area) is introduced without its companion predators, it can quickly wreak havoc on the existing balance in the wild and urban forests. This pest in particular tunnels in the phloem of the tree causing almost immediate irreparable damage in one year's time. Though it affects only the *Fraxinus* genera, it is ruthless in young and mature trees alike.



Left: Adult beetle  
Below: Late stage larva



Above: Newly emerged emerald ash borer

Below: Larval gallery

[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/eab/eab.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.htm)



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# The Morton Arboretum

**The Morton Arboretum** recently held an excellent educational forum to discuss the Midwest's general readiness plan to “reduce risk, minimize impact, and respond more effectively to possible infestation.” In addition, they have established a goal to “work towards overall health and sustainability of the urban forest”.



Heavily infested ash trees

[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/eab/eab.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.htm)



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## Why the Concern?

If the Emerald Ash Borer were left to the vagaries of nature, it perhaps would not reach our region from Michigan in our lifetime. The insect sticks close to the trees it emerges from and has only a one year life cycle. But since we move hundreds and thousands of miles by car and truck, transporting firewood and nursery stock from one place to the other, many unsuspecting wood piles will end up playing host to the next generation of Emerald Ash Borers. And we definitely do not want this piggy backer in our backyard.



Vertical split in the bark above larval gallery

[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/eab/eab.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.htm)



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## What can you do?

It is imperative that growers, landscape architects and plant buyers become informed about invasive pests like these.

It is also crucial to purchase plants from reputable, regularly inspected nurseries in the same region in which plants will be planted. The further away we go from our landscape site for plant material, the greater the risk of introducing uncommon or unknown pests and acclimatization difficulties in plant establishment.



*Fraxinus nigra 'Fallgold'*



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# What can you do?

## 1. *Do not move firewood.*

This has long been the source of many pest transplants within the states. **Gypsy moth** pupa are an example of how easily a pest can be transported from one region to another.



Green ash killed by emerald ash borer showing D-shaped exit holes

[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/eab/eab.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.htm)



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# What can you do?

## 2. **Learn what to look for.**

There are a number of places where up to date information can be obtained to make sure you have the tools and knowledge to positively identify harmful pests like these. Know their life cycles, plant symptoms and evaluate available preventive and treatment strategies.



D-shaped exit hole

[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/eab/eab.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.htm)

## 3. **Commit your designs and planting to implement diversity of plant material.**

There is never only one tree for a site. Plants put in the right site are less stressed from transplanting. A healthy tree is less likely to succumb to pests and disease. This pest is particularly problematic in that it appears to attack even very healthy trees.



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# Know who to contact...

The Morton Arboretum

[www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

[www.dnr.state.il.us/](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/)

Illinois Arborist Association

[www.illinoisarborist.org/](http://www.illinoisarborist.org/)

Illinois Department of Environment

[www.ci.chi.il.us/Environment/](http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Environment/)

American Nursery & Landscape Association

[www.anla.org/](http://www.anla.org/)



Pictures From:

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

State and Private Forestry **Northeastern Area**

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[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/eab/eab.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.htm)

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