

## Emerald Ash Borer Woodpecker Surveillance

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a highly destructive tree pest that targets ash trees in the genus *Fraxinus*. It was first detected on the east coast in 2002 and has since killed millions of trees across Canada.

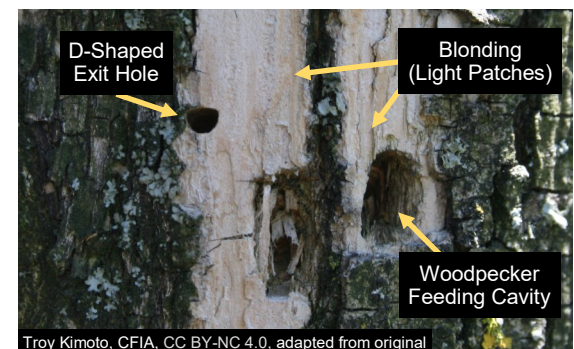
### EAB has not yet been found in Saskatchewan.

However, it poses a serious risk to Saskatoon's urban canopy as ash trees make up nearly 23% of the city's public tree inventory.

It can be difficult to detect EAB presence during initial invasions. Some trees only experience dieback when there is a high density of larvae in the tree, making it challenging to identify and contain new infestations before they spread.

Woodpeckers can be valuable allies in early detection. In areas where EAB is present, woodpeckers often feed on the larvae living beneath the bark. This reveals distinctive light patches bark known as "**blonding**" as they chip away at the outer bark.

While **blonding alone doesn't confirm EAB presence** (woodpeckers regulate the activity of many wood-boring insects), it can be a useful indicator to prompt an inspection for EAB's distinctive D-shaped exit holes and S-shaped larval galleries under the bark.



## How You Can Help

### ① Burn it Where you Buy It

EAB spreads through the movement of firewood. Help prevent the spread by purchasing firewood locally. **Never move firewood out of EAB infested areas.**

### ② Report Ash Blonding

Email [entomology@saskatoon.ca](mailto:entomology@saskatoon.ca) or call **306-975-2476** to report ash blonding. Please Include:

- A photo of the affected tree/branch
- A photo of defining tree characters (bark/leaves/branching pattern/seeds)
- Location of the tree

# Ash Tree Identification

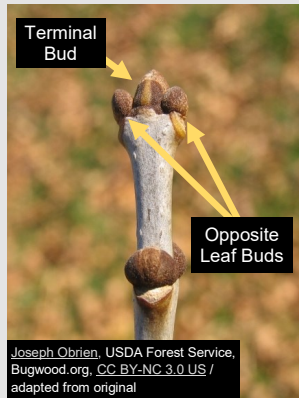
In Saskatoon, the most common species of ash are green and white ash, however, you may also encounter Mancana ash or black ash. These trees differ mainly in the number and shape of leaflets on their compound leaves. All ash in the genus *Fraxinus* is susceptible to emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation.

While many other tree species (maples, mountain ash) may share some similar features, a true ash tree will exhibit **at least two of the following characteristics**:

## Opposite Branching



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Joseph Obrien, USDA Forest Service,  
Bugwood.org, CC BY-NC 3.0 US /  
adapted from original

## Diamond-Shaped Bark\*



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org,  
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\*Mature trees only

## Compound Leaves



Francois Plourde, iNaturalist,  
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## Oar-Shaped Seeds



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org,  
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Visit the **Tree Diseases & Pests** page on [saskatoon.ca](http://saskatoon.ca) for links to identification guides, videos on emerald ash borer, and more