



Emerald Ash Borer Frequently Asked Questions

What is emerald ash borer (EAB)?

The EAB arrived in the United States in Michigan in the late 1990s or early 2000s. The insect attacks true ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.). The larvae feed under the bark, disrupting the movement of water and nutrients and killing the tree within several years. EAB has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in the United States over the past decade and has spread to 35 states and several Canadian provinces.

If EAB arrives in North Dakota, what do we have to lose?

North Dakota has an estimated 90 million ash trees. Ash make up nearly 70% of the total forest canopy, a quarter of the windbreaks in the state, and more than 40% of trees in community forests. All these trees are at risk for EAB. North Dakota has green ash and black ash (both native) as well as some white ash that are native to the U.S. but not to North Dakota. An additional *Fraxinus* spp., Manchurian ash, most commonly the cultivar Mancana, is used in North Dakota as a landscape and boulevard tree that is also vulnerable to EAB.

What is North Dakota doing to prevent introduction and spread?

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) maintains regulations to prevent the introduction of EAB; more on the regulation below. NDDA also partners with other agencies, such as the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) and NDSU Extension to place traps and monitor for EAB, conduct outreach, and field calls. EAB outreach and monitoring has been conducted in North Dakota since the mid-2000s, and this will continue.

What do the EAB regulations mean?

The EAB regulation ([codified in NDCC administrative rules 7-04-04](#)) regulates articles that are known to be pathways for spreading EAB. These articles include firewood of all non-coniferous species and ash trees and parts of an ash tree capable of harboring EAB, including nursery stock. These materials would not be allowed to enter North Dakota from a regulated area without certification from the state of origin. Nursery stock is prohibited from EAB regulated areas, as identified on our website.

How will the regulation be enforced?

While fines and penalties are authorized to be assessed for violations, NDDA will maintain an education-first approach, reserving penalties for egregious offenders. EAB outreach has been conducted in North Dakota by NDDA and other partners including NDSU Extension, North Dakota Forest Service, and others since the mid-2000s, and this will continue.

Where can I find local firewood?

NDDA is working with Firewood Scout (www.firewoodscout.org) to set up a firewood finder for North Dakota residents and travelers to easily find local firewood or certified firewood.

Where can I find more information?

NDDA maintains a firewood webpage that has more information regarding EAB and the EAB regulation. This can be found here: www.ndda.gov/firewood. Other great resources include www.ndinvasives.org, www.dontmovefirewood.org, and www.hungrypests.com.