

## **The Metallic Green Menace**

Emerald ash borer (EAB) (*Agrilus plannipennis*), an imported Asian insect that kills ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees, was first identified in Ohio near Toledo in 2003. It has also been confirmed in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, and southwest Ontario, Canada. As of October 3, 2006, EAB has been confirmed in Cuyahoga County. EAB has also been identified in 20 other Ohio counties including Auglaize, Delaware, Defiance, Erie, Franklin, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lorain, Lucas, Marion, Miami, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Warren, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot. This insect is a bona fide major threat to Ohio's estimated 3.8 billion ash trees and the respective economy that relies on ash wood products. In the United States, EAB only attacks ash tree species. These include white ash (*F. americana*), black ash (*F. nigra*), and green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*), as well as several cultivated varieties. EAB kills ash trees within three to five years of infestation. Adults are dark metallic green, 1/2 inch in length and 1/8 inch wide, and fly only from mid-May to September. Larvae spend the rest of the year developing beneath the bark of infected trees. Adults leave behind unique 1/8 inch D-shaped exit holes in trees. For complete EAB information, please visit the Ohio Department of Agriculture's web site: <http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/>.

It is very important for TLA property owners to understand that once the insect is confirmed in ash trees, the current control method is to cut down and chip/burn all existing ash trees in a half-mile radius surrounding the point of detection. For those of you with many ash trees on or near your property, this would have a big impact on the landscape. Firewood movement is why this pest has spread so quickly. For this reason, it is extremely important that you do not move firewood or infected live ash trees since EAB larvae can survive hidden under bark. Quarantine violators can expect fines of up to \$4,000. It is very important that you do all you can locally to prevent the further spread of the "metallic green menace". EAB pamphlets, technical bulletins, and placards will be available for dissemination at the upcoming TLA meeting on October 9, 2006. Please call 330-677-8423 if you would like to pick up any of these materials at 1590 North Boulevard if you cannot attend the meeting.

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