

## Emerald Ash Borer – *Agrilus planipennis*



Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) (EAB) is an exotic beetle which causes significant damage to ash trees (*Fraxinus* species). A native of eastern Asia, it is not known to be present in the UK.

EAB is established in parts of North America where it is causing considerable damage. It's thought EAB was introduced in the 1990s via imported wood packaging. It is also present in Russia, and is spreading west and south of Moscow at a rate of up to 25 miles a year.

Ash is an important broadleaf tree in the UK and is already under threat from Chalara ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxinus*). It's therefore important to take measures to reduce the risk of EAB establishing and to remain observant for any of the symptoms.

(Photo: Leah Bauer, USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Bugwood.org)



**Don't give**  
pests and  
diseases  
an easy ride



If you think you have spotted a new case of this pest in a tree, then report it through the Forestry Commission's online Tree Alert form: [forestry.gov.uk/treelalert](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/treelalert)

Help to keep the UK free of this pest by complying with all import regulations.

### Think kit

This pest poses the most risk via the import of ash wood products. However, regular cleaning and disinfecting of tools used on trees are considered to be good practice.

### Think transport

Imported ash wood products must originate from areas free of EAB, and comply with all International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures and EU and national regulations, which are specific to the type of wood product.

### Think trees

There is a Plant Health Order that prohibits all imports of ash seeds, plants and trees into the UK, and all internal movement of ash seeds, plants and trees.

## Symptoms Guide: Emerald Ash Borer

### Leaf notch

Adult beetles, usually 7.5 – 13.5 mm long, feed on the leaves and create notches on the side of the leaf.

(Photo: Debbie Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)



### D-shaped exit holes

Emerging adults produce D-shaped exit holes in the bark, about 3mm in diameter.

(Photo: Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org)



### Larval galleries

Larval galleries are created as the larva feed between the bark and sapwood. Galleries typically meander and bend sharply, and are packed with frass. Larval galleries can create visible cracks or splits in the bark.

(Photo: Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)



### Epicormic growth

Due to stress, the tree produces epicormic shoots on the trunk and roots, but can also be found in the tree crown, stems and larger branches.

(Photo: Daniel Herms, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org)



### Dieback

Trees show a general yellowing and thinning of foliage, dying branches and crown dieback, typically from the top down.

(Photo: Daniel Herms, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org)



### Woodpecker

Woodpeckers feed on the beetles and create holes surrounded by light coloured patches where the bark has been stripped away.

(Photo: David Cappaert, Bugwood.org)

For more details, please visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/emeraldashborer](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/emeraldashborer)