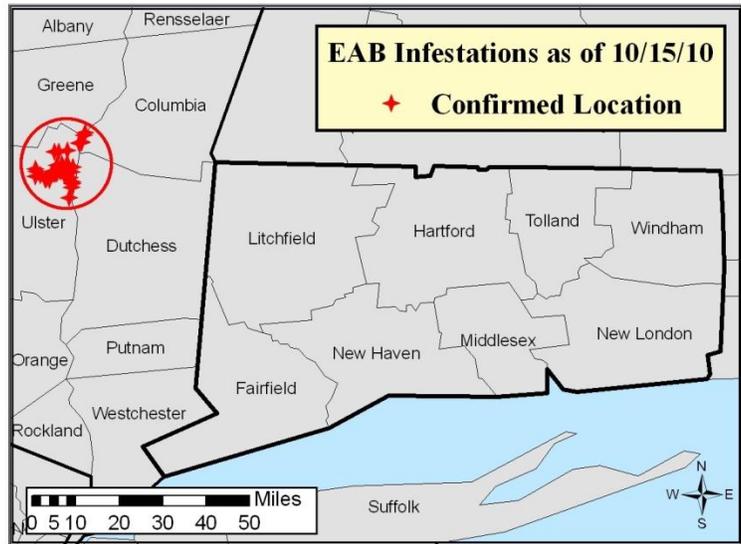




Important Message to Private Landowners of Connecticut's Woodlands Regarding Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native insect that kills ash trees. EAB was recently detected in **Saugerties, New York**, about 25 miles west of the northwestern corner of Litchfield County, Connecticut. All natural and planted species of ash that are found in Connecticut are susceptible. (Please note: mountain ash is not truly an ash tree.) This invasive beetle from eastern Asia has caused considerable mortality in the ash populations of the 15 states and 2 Canadian provinces where the insect has been found. Once infested, ash trees quickly decline and die within three to five years. Treatments exist for individual trees; however, there are no area-wide controls currently available.



In Connecticut, ash species comprise about 3% of forested lands with individual woodlands varying widely from negligible amounts of ash trees to perhaps as much as 20% or more. The occurrence of ash is greatest in Litchfield, Fairfield and Tolland Counties. While ash may be a small percentage of the tree population in CT, these trees hold social, economic, cultural and ecological value.

As of April 11, 2011, there have been no confirmed finds of this beetle in Connecticut.

Since early detection is the key to minimizing the impact to Connecticut's ash resource, it is critical that woodland owners be informed and prepared. To help them respond, we offer the following guidance.

1. Do not move firewood.

The movement of infested firewood has been identified as one of the primary methods by which EAB has spread long distances. Visit www.dontmovefirewood.org for more information.

2. Woodland owners should not act hastily.

The removal of ash from private forest lands should not be the first and only management consideration. The course of action a landowner selects should depend on specific variables, including:

- timing of EAB arrival in CT
- owner's forest management objectives
- abundance and maturity of ash in the woodland
- the abundance and quality of other species in the woodland
- owner's geographic proximity to EAB infestation
- the availability of markets
- owner's ability to complete or coordinate work tasks in the woods

3. **Notify authorities if you suspect EAB has infested your woodland.**

If you suspect Emerald Ash Borer is in your woodland, consult attached Quick Reference Guide to EAB. Contact a representative from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) at (203) 974-8474 or email CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov.

4. **Don't trust your land to anyone but a state-certified forester who can assess your woodlands and formulate a plan of action.**

It is important to work with a forester certified by the state. This professional will determine your potential risk by assessing the abundance and size of ash in your forest and any potential impact that the loss of those trees might have. Understanding your needs and desire to manage the impact associated with EAB, the state-certified forester can craft a suitable and effective plan of action should EAB reach your property.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Forestry (DOF) Service Foresters can help you in the important process of selecting a well-qualified state-certified forester for hire. DEP Service Foresters can also provide limited, free management planning advice to forest landowners upon request. To obtain assistance from a DOF Service Forester, contact the DOF main office, (860) 424-3630 or visit the DOF website at www.ct.gov/dep/forestry.

5. **Call before you cut.**

Consult with a state-certified forester, or DOF Service Forester, prior to making decisions whether to cut or not to cut your ash trees.

6. **Consider options to protect individual trees.**

Important individual trees may be protected from EAB, or if infested they may recover from EAB following treatment with appropriate insecticide. Such treatments are not practical at a large scale. See *Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer*. (Available at: www.emeraldashborer.info/files/multistate_EAB_Insecticide_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

7. **Be informed about EAB.**

Federal and state staff will be monitoring for EAB in 2011 using a variety of methods, **however, the watchful eyes of woodland owners is a critical and effective mode of early detection**. Learn the signs, symptoms and appearance of EAB so that you may help in its early detection and slow its rate of spread. For more information about EAB, see attached fact sheet or visit: www.emeraldashborer.info.

*On the following page, you will find a **Quick Reference Guide to Emerald Ash Borer**. Woodland owners are encouraged to circulate this information widely.*

