

## Ash Trees Threatened

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), the Asian insect that kills ash trees is next door in Hamilton County. EAB was first found in Michigan it has migrated relatively quickly to its southern most point in Anderson Township. What does it mean for Clermont County? We will likely be infected soon and experts are predicting all ash trees in the United States will be killed. Ash trees account for about 10% of natural occurring trees in Clermont County. There will be an economic impact to home owners and local governments to manage dead and dieing trees, although this will be gradual and the spread can be slowed. The insect can fly, but the likely way it was spread here was someone transporting firewood or landscaping material. Hamilton County is quarantined for moving wood outside the County. Do your part; don't bring firewood from Hamilton County into Clermont.

After trees are infected, they will likely die in 3 to 5 years and dead trees can cause a hazard as dead branches break and fall, or they can be a habitat for woodpeckers and other animals. Caution, there are scam artists out there playing on peoples fears. This is not an emergency, but you need to be aware and prepare. If trees are in high traffic areas or near structures they will likely need to be removed, if in a woodlot they can be left to natural forces. There are some chemical treatments that can be sprayed on the trunk of a tree, but the cost is high, the effectiveness is uncertain, and it must be done every year.

The insect can be identified by its emerald green color (there are other emerald insects), D-shaped exit holes in the trunk of the tree approximately 1/8 inch in diameter, and unusual sprouts near the trunk of the tree. For those wanting to know more, four excellent resources are provided below. It is sad to think that your grandchildren may not get to see the tall straight trunk of the majestic ash tree. For more information call OSU Extension (511) 732-7070 or see the web resources listed below.



**Emerald Ash Borer**



**Ash leaf with 11 leaflets**

<http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/>

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

<http://ashalert.osu.edu/>

<http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/health/eab.htm>