



Emerald Ash Borer

FACTSHEET: INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF THE CREDIT RIVER WATERSHED



The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a shiny emerald green beetle that kills ash trees. Ash is found throughout forests and woodlots in the Credit River watershed and is commonly used as a street or landscape tree. EAB is an invasive pest, native to Asia and was first noticed in North America in 2002, in the Detroit-Windsor area.

EAB larvae feed just beneath the bark of ash trees and disrupt the movement of water and nutrients. Once signs and symptoms of infestation develop the tree is usually in irreversible decline. Once dead, ash trees tend to fall apart, dropping bark and dead branches, within two years.

This pest continues to spread north through Ontario by flying from ash tree to ash tree. The rapid, large-scale spread of EAB, however, is facilitated by transporting firewood, nursery stock and logs. EAB has already killed millions of trees but early detection can slow its spread and damage.

Monitoring



Credit Valley Conservation is working with its partners to monitor the spread of EAB throughout the Credit River watershed. By 2009, EAB was detected in the urban southern areas of the watershed, including Mississauga, Brampton and Oakville.

CVC is deploying a series of traps in the central and northern areas of the watershed to track the spread of EAB. EAB traps are an early warning system that alert CVC staff and local residents to the presence of the pest.

Signs that a tree may be infested with EAB:

- New shoots growing vigorously from the trunk or lower branches
- S-shaped tunnels formed by larvae underneath the bark filled with fine sawdust



- Small D-shaped holes in the bark (from where the beetle emerges)



- Thinning foliage in the upper branches and crown of the tree



- Adult beetles feeding on the foliage

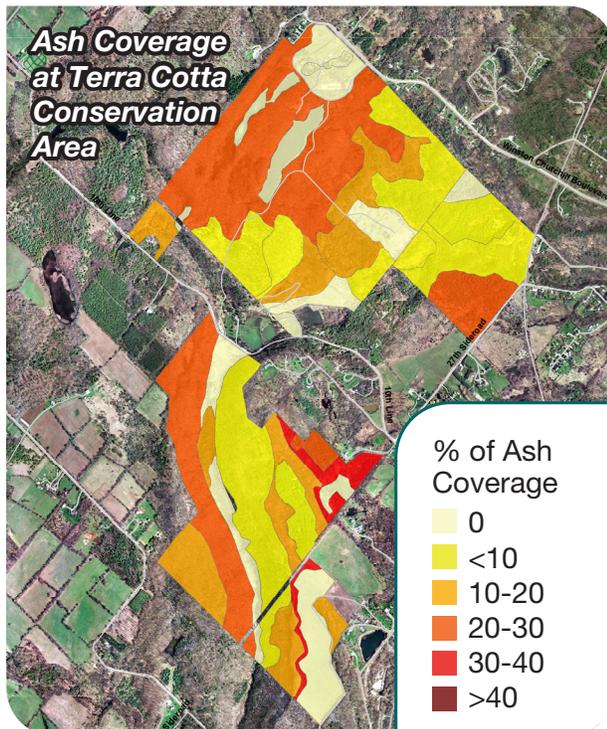
Risk assessment



CVC owns and manages many properties throughout the watershed. CVC is currently undertaking a comprehensive tree species mapping exercise to determine the extent and concentration of ash tree coverage. This information will help CVC plan for the safe removal or treatment of ash trees based on their ecological significance and proximity to CVC facilities, infrastructure and trails. CVC will be removing ash trees deemed safety hazards. CVC's facilities and conservation areas will stay open, but certain trails and areas may be restricted during tree removal. Certain areas where trees are removed will be replanted with alternative native tree species.

CVC and its partner municipalities have made a significant investment in protecting and enhancing the environmental health of the Credit River watershed. A CVC EAB Response Plan is currently being developed to address this threat. Widespread control of EAB is not possible but a response plan can help manage the impact EAB has on watershed forests.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the principle agency responsible for regulating EAB in Canada. CFIA has established regulated areas that restrict movement of all ash products, including firewood, outside the regulated area.



What can residents do?

Residents play a significant role in helping control EAB by not moving firewood and monitoring ash trees for evidence of EAB activity. For more information on how to identify the signs and symptoms of EAB, visit the CVC website at www.creditvalleyca.ca/eab.



Landowners in the Credit River watershed thinking about replanting a woodlot with alternative tree species can learn about CVC's tree

planting and reforestation programs at www.creditvalleyca.ca/forestry.

Photos 1-4, courtesy of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.