

The Emerald Ash Borer:

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a non-native insect that kills all species of Ash trees, was discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County. This highly destructive insect has killed millions of Ash trees including trees in Leonia. The EAB larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves water and nutrients to the tree. The EAB often infects the upper branches of the tree first. It takes 2 to 4 years for the infested tree to die.

The NJDEP State Forestry Services recommends:

- IDENTIFY Ash trees. Ash species have opposite branches and leaves and a compound leaf with 5-11 leaflets. The bark on older trees has a unique diamond-shaped ridge bark, but younger trees may have smoother bark.
- MONITOR your Ash trees for the EAB. You will know when the risk of mortality becomes urgent. Look for dying branches at the top of the tree, woodpecker damage, S-shaped galleries under the bark, d-shaped holes, bark splits, and green adult beetles.



To determine the health of your Ash trees, consult an arborist or Licensed Tree Expert.

For more information, the following websites are helpful:

- NJ Department of Agriculture

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html>

- The United States Department of Agriculture