

# What's Developing in Frederick

Steps to Save your Ash (Tree)| *June 2018*

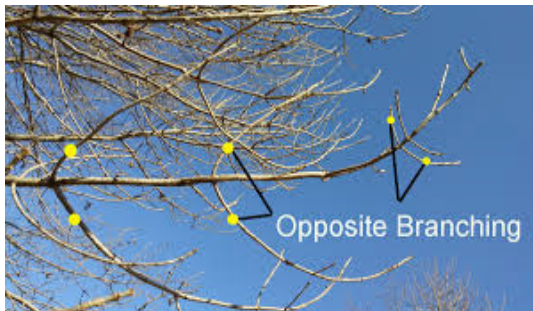
One way to determine if you indeed have an ash tree is to download the EAB/Ash Tree ID app which is available for both smart phone platforms. Find it in your app store by searching for ash tree.

A few other resources exist to help provide this and similar information. One resource to use is [www.beasmartash.org](http://www.beasmartash.org) which is a website created by the Denver City Forester who has been working to defend the city against the emerald ash borer. Another is <https://www.colorado.gov/agplants/emerald-ash-borer> which is the site hosted by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

The short and direct way to determine whether or not you have an ash tree is by answering these three questions.

1. Does my tree have branches opposite one another?

By opposite branches, it means that branches protruding from tree limbs have a mate protruding from the exact opposite side of the same limb. The limbs of ash trees have opposite branching.



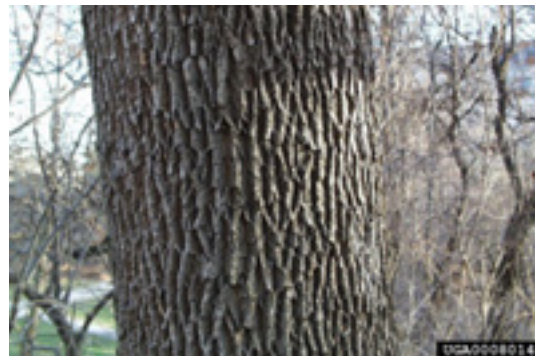
2. Does my tree have compound leaves?

Ash trees have compound leaves. A compound leaf is defined as having more than one leaflet per leaf connecting to a stem that has a bud at its base. Ash tree leaves typically have 5-9 leaflets per leaf.



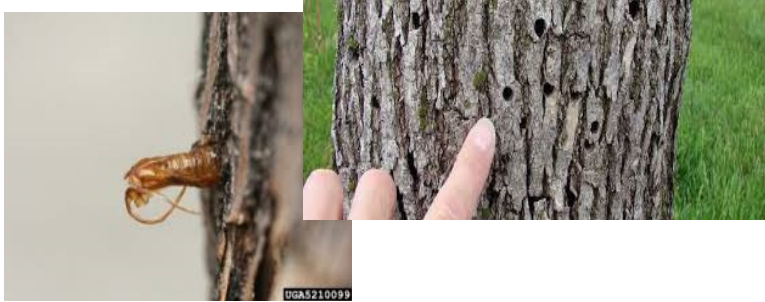
3. Diamond-pattern bark

Older ash trees tend to have distinct diamond patterns in their bark. The bark of younger ash trees is relatively smooth.



If after analyzing your tree you find it to be an ash tree, please continue reading.

Ash trees may be affected by a number of insects and environmental factors including cold injury, soil conditions, improper planting, and insects such as lilac ash borer and ash bark beetle. Here are a few pictures of the damage done by them and what they look like. They are often mistaken as EAB so please look carefully!



Lilac Ash Borer emerging from the tree (above left) and the holes it leaves behind (above right).



Ash bark beetle holes (above) and the bug itself (below).



The little bugger getting the most press recently is the Emerald Ash Borer.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) management strategies

Ash trees can battle the EAB for quite a period of time before showing the effects of infestation. Signs of infestation include any of the following:

Thinning of leaves and upper branches and twigs.



As the larvae travel through the tree's water-conducting tissue (the cambium) just under the bark, they leave serpentine tunnels behind as a sign of their presence. This is the key damage to trees.



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The holes in the bark are formed by the adult insects emerging from the inner-tree. Because of this, the openings are D-shaped exit holes approximately 1/8 inch wide.



Adult beetles are metallic green and about a half-inch long (long enough to reach from one side of a penny to the other side).



Because of the serpentine tunnels within the cambium of the tree, nutrients are not able to flow to the upper portions of the tree and are kept at the lower portions of the trunk. This results in new sprouts on the lower trunk or lower branches.



Woodpeckers feed on the emerald ash borers (as well as other insects) therefore another possible indicator you may notice is an increase in woodpecker activity around infested trees. The woodpeckers leave a hole in the trees similar to what's seen in this picture.



Now what?

After considering the information provided and whether this matches what is occurring with your tree, it may best be to contact a licensed professional. The Weld County Master Gardeners Group has a wealth of information and is ready and willing to share that knowledge with homeowners looking to figure out the next best steps. You can visit with them at the Frederick Market.

You can also find an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) licensed arborist by visiting <https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist>.

It's important to hire an arborist that is certified to provide reliable information. The State Department of Agriculture provides a list of tree care professionals at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/10CgLDRKLbrvK\\_toy8G9pArSkCq-xTs66/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10CgLDRKLbrvK_toy8G9pArSkCq-xTs66/view). As EAB has become recognized, "arborists" who are not certified have become more prevalent, so please ask if they are certified by ISA.

If you think you have a tree infected by EAB, call the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 1-88-248-5535 or filling out their EAB report form at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agplants/eab-identification-and-reporting>.

Remember, the greatest risk of long-distance spread is from human movement of infested ash trees or firewood. Do not transport ash or any hardwood firewood, or any other untreated ash wood products, to other locations. Boulder County and some surrounding areas are under a federal EAB quarantine, allowing for significant fines for those who move untreated wood from the area.

For more information about ash tree identification, the symptoms of EAB and treatment options, go [eabcolorado.com](http://eabcolorado.com)

or

[csfs.colostate.edu/emerald-ash-borer](http://csfs.colostate.edu/emerald-ash-borer).

