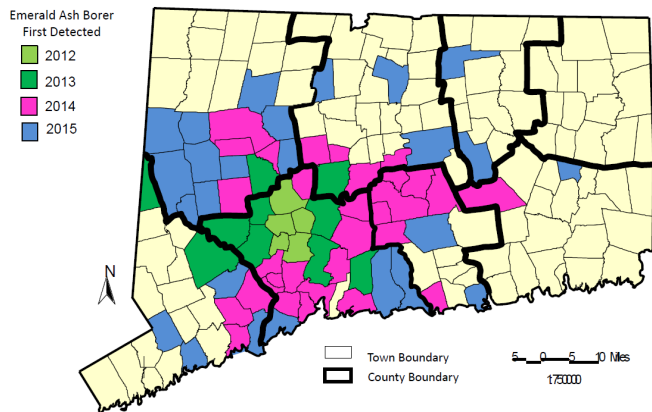




Important Message to Private Landowners of Connecticut's Woodlands Regarding Emerald Ash Borer

As of December 2014, the full State of Connecticut under quarantine due to EAB.



The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native insect that kills ash trees. In 2012, EAB was detected in the New Haven County towns of Prospect, Beacon Falls, Bethany, and Naugatuck. By 2015, it has been found in 67 towns and seven counties in Connecticut. All species of ash native to Connecticut are susceptible. This invasive beetle from eastern Asia has already caused considerable mortality in the ash populations of several US states and two Canadian provinces. Unless treated, infested ash trees quickly decline and die within three to five years. The treatments available are for individual trees. No area-wide controls are 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.

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 means by which EAB is spread long distances. Within Connecticut, a [quarantine](#) has been established that prohibits the movement of ash logs, nursery stock and yard waste, and all hardwood firewood out of the infested counties and into the rest of the state. In addition, a [self-issued firewood certificate of origin](#) is required when moving firewood anywhere within the state. (Visit www.ct.gov/deep/eab and www.dontmovefirewood.org for more details.)

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 upon specific variables, including:

- extent of infestation 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 and quarantine zones
- the availability of timber markets
- owner's ability to complete or coordinate work tasks in the woods

3. If you suspect Emerald Ash Borer is in your woodland, consult the [Quick Reference Guide to the EAB](http://www.ct.gov/deep/eab) (www.ct.gov/deep/eab).

Also, 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](#). Contact information for all state-certified foresters is available on a [regularly updated list on the DEEP Forestry website](#) (or visit www.ct.gov/deep/forestry). A forester from this list can determine your potential risk by assessing the abundance and size of ash in your woods and any potential impact that might result from the loss of those trees. Understanding your needs and your desire to manage the impact associated with EAB, the forester, as a state-certified professional, can craft a suitable and effective plan of action should EAB reach your property.

The [Service Foresters](#) within the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Division of Forestry (DOF) can help you in the important process of selecting a well-qualified state-certified forester for hire. DEEP Service Foresters 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 at (860) 424-3630 or visit the DOF website at www.ct.gov/deep/forestry.

5. Call before you cut.

Consult with a state-certified forester or DOF Service Forester prior to making the decision to cut your ash trees.

6. Consider options to protect individual trees.

Individual uninfested trees can be protected from EAB. If not too severely infested, trees already with EAB can recover following treatment with an appropriate insecticide. These treatments are not practical at a large scale. To learn more, see [Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer](#), available at: www.emeraldashborer.info. If you choose to protect an individual tree, consult a [CT-licensed arborist](#). A licensed arborist is authorized to assess the health of your tree and then to create and implement a treatment plan appropriate for that tree. A regularly updated list of arborists is available at: <http://www.kellysolutions.com/CT/Applicators/index.htm>.

7. Help authorities track the beetle on your own property.

Federal and State Agencies' staffs have been monitoring for EAB using a variety of methods and will continue to do so. **The watchful eyes of woodland owners are also 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, visit: www.emeraldashborer.info, or the [CT DEEP EAB](#) webpage for printable references such as the [Quick Reference Guide to Emerald Ash Borer](#). Woodland owners are encouraged to circulate this information widely.

Federal and State Agencies' staffs have conducted a delimiting survey that is helping forest managers identify the extent of an EAB infestation and that can be used to develop an appropriate, localized EAB response plan. The cooperation of private landowners will be greatly appreciated as authorities attempt to manage infestations and protect locations not yet impacted.

