

**Tree E-News**  
**Colorado State Forest Service**  
**October 2012**

## Urban and Community Forestry

***Emerald Ash Borer:*** The emerald ash borer (EAB) was first identified in the state of Michigan in 2002. An insect native to China with no natural enemies here in the United States, it has established itself in the native ash forest of the Midwest. Damage by the adult insect is minimal, but the larvae that tunnel under the bark will girdle and kill a tree. Arborists, entomologists, and regulatory agencies have worked hard to slow the spread of this insect primarily through quarantines and public education programs. Despite all of their efforts, the insect continues to move into new areas. On August 29<sup>th</sup> of this year, EAB was positively identified in an ash from Wyandotte County, Kansas. The Kansas side of Kansas City is in Wyandotte County. Interstate 70 passes through this county and is less than 650 miles from Denver.



Larval Stage – Adult Stage – D-shaped exit hole

EAB shares some similarities to Dutch Elm Disease (DED), an elm killing fungus spread by bark beetles. Both pest problems were introduced to the United States and were first identified in the Midwest. Both problems are devastating to native American tree species that have historically been a major component of the urban forest. The American elm in the eyes of many homeowners was the epitome of a street tree with its vase-shaped form. Once the elm was eliminated from the urban tree palette by DED, the ash became the perfect substitute.

However, there is significant difference in these two tree pests and their tree hosts. DED was first identified in Ohio in 1930 and then identified in Colorado in the early 70's. It took DED 40 years to arrive in Colorado. It appears that EAB could arrive in Colorado in less than 15 years from where it was first discovered.

### ***So what can be done about EAB?***

First of all, everyone who has some responsibility or investment in tree care needs to get smarter about EAB. A good place to start that learning process is [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info), a one-stop shopping website for everything you need to know about EAB. Here is just a sampling of what someone can find on this website.

- a) There is a downloadable bulletin entitled “Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer.” This bulletin discusses university research on insecticides and makes recommendations
- b) There are tabs that can be selected to learn how to identify EAB (with pictures) with downloadable pdf documents to share.

***Northern Rockies Tree School:*** This year Sheridan, Wyoming, will host the Northern Rockies Tree School on October 10 – 11. If you can't make it to the ISA Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting in Fort Collins October 4 – 6, this two-day event in Northern Wyoming would be an educational alternative. The organizing committee has put together an interesting agenda. Here are some of the topics slated to be covered; the wisdom of roots, greening your community's infrastructure, strategies for sustaining success in the urban forest, caring for a mature and declining canopy, native versus non-native trees, and trees and community planning. In addition, there are some scheduled field tours. The registration form is available on the Rocky Mountain Chapter website [www.isarmc.org](http://www.isarmc.org).