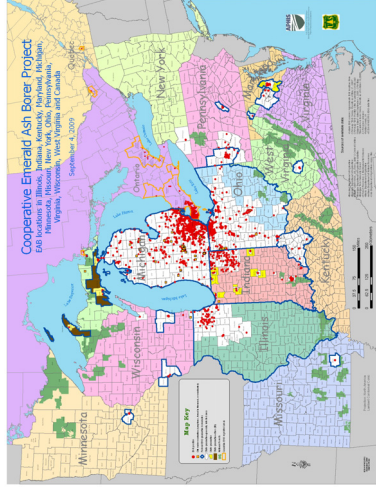


## Emerald Ash Borer: First Detector Program

### A Volunteer Early Detection Program

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### Background

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first identified in Detroit, MI in 2002. It spreads mainly through human transportation of wood. EAB attacks and kills all ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.). MN has over 900 million ash trees.

### Partnership Planning

Since 2006, multiple state and federal agency staff in Minnesota have been collaborating and planning for EAB.

Committees include:

- EAB Response Team
- Firewood
- EAB Science Advisory Group

Partners include:

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal, Plant & Health Inspection Service

### Abstract

#### EMERALD ASH BORER FIRST DETECTOR PROGRAM A VOLUNTEER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect originally introduced from China to Detroit, MI. It attacks and kills all ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees. EAB is the most serious forest pest in the eastern United States. As of September 2009 it has been found in 13 states. Minnesota, Michigan and Maine have the three largest ash tree populations in the US. Minnesota's wetland hardwood forests are more than 50% ash. This invasive species is poised to dramatically change Minnesota's forests.

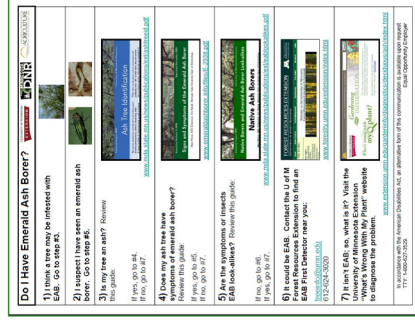
The Emerald Ash Borer First Detector program is part of the federal "National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) First Detector program that promotes the early detection of invasive, exotic plant pathogens, arthropods, nematodes and weeds." The EAB First Detector program is designed to help identify the first incidence of EAB in Minnesota.

This first-in-the-United-States program is a joint project between the University of Minnesota Extension (Extension), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The EAB First Detector program targeted participants with either a working or volunteer background in forest management. EAB First Detector trainings were held in six statewide full-day training sessions in 2008. A modified version of this program, which now includes additional forest pests, of concern (Gypsy Moth, Asian Longhorned Beetle, and Sirex wood weevil), was held 5 times in 2009.

Attendance at these programs were 160 (2008) and 146 (2009). A total of 233 volunteers committed to become First Detectors. These trained individuals scattered throughout the state will improve our scouting abilities in identifying pests and infestations early so management practices can be implemented quickly.

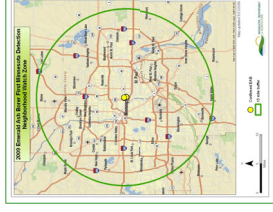
### Education and Outreach

Education and outreach has been a part of all collaborative committee work on a continuing basis. Educational materials have been developed whenever the need arises and funds are available. At the First Detector Trainings, packets were assembled with the most up to date pest information.



EAB Checklist

EAB Green Insect Comparison



EAB was discovered in  
St. Paul, MN on May 14, 2009

### Responsibilities of EAB First Detectors

1. Willing to receive EAB resident referrals from EAB Hotline
2. Follow the EAB checklist and guidelines for referrals
3. Advise MDA if EAB can not be ruled out
4. Collect samples or photos if convenient
5. Email First Detector report log to MDA

### Results

First Detector trainings were conducted in 2008 and 2009. Trainings were conducted throughout the state. Participants were asked if they would like to volunteer as a First Detector. Of the 326 trained individuals, 233 committed to become First Detectors.



EAB Calls and  
First Detector Referrals:

	<u>Calls</u>	<u>Referrals</u>
<b>2008</b>	116	11
<b>2009</b>	608	299

### 2008 - First Detector Survey

- Educational contacts: 1023
- Want additional training on tree pests
- Prefer face to face, half or full day trainings (Feb/Mar/Apr)
- Continue EAB and pest updates by email

### Web Sites

- [www.extension.umn.edu/issues/eab/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/issues/eab/)
- [www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.htm](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.htm)

- [www.emeraldashborer.info/](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/)
- [forest.nrri.umn.edu/ash](http://forest.nrri.umn.edu/ash)