



Garden Spot of Colorado

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Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed In Berthoud

Berthoud, Colorado (October 2, 2025) - Earlier this month, experts from Colorado State University Extension confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in the Town of Berthoud. According to Berthoud's tree inventory, there are approximately 915 ash trees on public property. These trees account for 8% of the town's total public tree canopy, and there are significantly more located on private property, including those found in people's yards and fields.

"If we lose all of these trees to the EAB, it will have a significant impact on Berthoud's tree canopy and general landscape," said Berthoud's Town Forester Paul Furnas.

With ash trees estimated to comprise 15% or more of all urban trees in Colorado, this non-native, invasive pest poses a serious threat to urban forests. EAB attacks and kills both stressed and healthy ash trees and is so aggressive that trees typically die within two to four years after becoming infested.

EAB was first confirmed in Colorado in 2013 in the City of Boulder. Since then, EAB has spread to other cities and towns in Colorado. Due to a rigorous EAB treatment plan, Berthoud has been able to protect nearly 80% of trees in parks and right-of-way strips. Longmont has had EABs since 2016, and Loveland confirmed their first case last year, so it was only a matter of time before it showed up in our trees. Berthoud Forestry made the initial discovery in an ash tree located in the northern part of town.

"We are fortunate to have a highly trained Forestry team," said Town Administrator Chris Kirk. "They have taken the arrival of this destructive insect very seriously since its discovery in Colorado back in 2013 and have taken all of the appropriate steps to ensure the health of our ash trees." Furnas adds, "Now is the time to act if you have ash trees on your property and are serious about protecting Berthoud's urban forest."

- More -

Emerald Ash Borer

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EAB tips for Colorado residents

- **Determine now if you have any ash trees.** Identifying features of ash trees include compound leaves with five to nine leaflets; leaflets, buds, and branches growing directly opposite one another; and diamond-shaped bark ridges on mature trees. Find more information about ash tree identification, including a helpful app, on the [CSFS website](#).
- **If you have an ash tree, start planning.** Decide if the overall health of the tree and the benefits it provides merit current or future treatment, or if it would be best to remove and replace it with a different species. If you are unsure, contact your [local CSU Extension horticulture agent](#), Berthoud Forestry Department, or an ISA Certified Arborist. If you do plan to treat the tree, the CSFS or Berthoud Forestry Department can offer recommendations for [selecting a tree care company](#).
- **Plant trees.** Replace ash trees in poor health with diverse species. The Colorado Department of Agriculture offers a database of [registered nurseries and landscape contractors](#).
- **Recognize signs of EAB infestation.** Property owners with ash trees should be on the lookout for thinning of leaves in the upper tree canopy, 1/8-inch D-shaped holes on the bark, and vertical bark splitting with winding S-shaped tunnels underneath.
- **Help prevent further spread of EAB.** Do not transport ash or any hardwood firewood, or any other untreated ash wood products outside of Berthoud. Dispose of ash wood safely by chipping, composting, milling into lumber, or taking it to a landfill.

For more information about ash tree identification, the symptoms of EAB, treatment options, and how to use ash wood, visit the [CSFS website](#).

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native, wood-boring beetle that is responsible for the death or decline of tens of millions of ash trees in the United States and Canada. This insect was first discovered in Michigan in 2002, and since then, it has spread to at least 35 states, including Colorado. As a non-native insect, EAB lacks predators in North America to keep it in check. EAB typically only attacks ash trees in the genus Fraxinus, but has also been documented infesting white fringe tree. Mountain ash and other species are not susceptible.

