



## Emerald Ash Borer Boulder Bus Tour

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June 14, 2017 (11 AM – 3 PM)

### Locations:

- Bixby Lane, Boulder, CO
- 1821 30<sup>th</sup> St., Boulder, CO

### Presenters:

- **Steve Geist**, Senior Consulting Arborist/Plant Pathologist, Swingle  
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### Purpose of this tour:

To show the real-world affects of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Boulder – the first city in Colorado where EAB was discovered back in September 2013.

### What does Emerald Ash Borer mean for commercial properties?

If your property has ash trees, it will inevitably cost you money one way or another, depending on your course of action.

*NOTE: The 2013 United States Forest Service Metro Denver Urban Forest Assessment Report estimates the Denver metro area has 1.45 million ash trees. There are over 90,000 in Boulder.*

### Challenges facing property managers:

- Unforeseen expenses not budgeted for
  - Cost to treat ash trees over a ten year span
  - The cost to dispose of dead trees is on the rise
  - New trees to plant are growing scarce driving up prices
  - Treatments could increase growth requiring more trimming
- Dying trees will become a safety hazard
- Infested trees will tarnish the beauty of the property
- Deciding on a management plan - treat, remove, remove and plant a new tree or do nothing



### How do you know if an ash tree should be removed?

*All ash trees should be evaluated before making a decision. Things to consider are:*

- The ash tree is in poor health with limited root volume
- It's planted underneath aerial utility lines and eventually will be haphazardly cut by the power company
- It's grown poorly and is considerably misshapen and unattractive
- It was planted too close to buildings, signage, walkways, etc.

### How do you know if an ash tree is worth saving?

- It's a signature tree on your property (main entrance, central garden, planted in a row surrounding the perimeter)
- It provides your building with much needed shade
- It helps with erosion and runoff mitigation
- It increases the commercial appeal of your property to tenants and patrons
- It's healthy enough to manage treatment and possible attacks

### Top 5 emerald ash borer tips for the Front Range:

#### #1 - Determine if you have an ash tree

Ash trees feature compound leaves with 5 to 9 leaflets, buds and branches growing opposite from one another and diamond-shaped bark ridges (on mature trees).

#### #2 - Understand the signs of infestation

Look for thinning upper branches, twigs, loss of leaves, 1/8" holes on bark and a heavy increase of woodpecker activity.

#### #3 - Be aware of impostors

Lilac ash borer, ash bark beetle and apple tree borer look similar and cause the same symptoms. Swingle's certified arborists can help you identify what you tree has.

#### #4 - Help prevent further spreads

Do not transport any hardwood or firewood to other locations, especially if it's near the quarantine zone in Boulder County.

#### #5 - Start planning now

Decide if the overall health of the tree merits treatment or if it would be best to remove and replace it with a different species.

### About Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

EAB, a non-native invasive insect from Asia, was first discovered around Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario in the summer of 2002 and has rapidly spread throughout the eastern half of the United States and Canada.

Although EAB was detected for the first time in 2002, scientists suspect EAB was introduced to the United States in 1997. Most likely as a result of human transport of infested wood (shipping pallets), EAB has now been detected in 29 states and two Canadian Provinces.

### The realities of EAB:

- 50 million ash trees killed in North America
- 1 out of 6 Front Range trees are ash trees
- Emerald ash borer females lays approximately 100 eggs during her 2-month life

### The symptoms of EAB:

- It is difficult to see the effects of EAB in the first 1-2 years of infestation – be on the look out for:
  - D-shaped exit holes in the ash bark
  - A thinning of the upper branches (canopy)
  - Heavy woodpecker activity throughout ash trees

### What does EAB look like?

- The adult beetle (left) and the larvae (right)



**Damage from emerald ash borer:**



**Notes:**

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